

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## POLL RESULTS

What should the CNMI do with the land alienation provision of the Constitution in 2011?

Retain it-**39**

Remove it-**45**

Amend it-**25**

Sunday March 9, 2008

## INSIDE



### Obama Leads

Sen. Barack Obama captured the Wyoming Democratic caucuses Saturday, seizing a bit of momentum.

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### Mass Grave

A mass grave containing about 100 bodies was discovered Saturday in a region north of Baghdad that has seen years of intense fighting between Shiites and Sunni extremist members of al-Qaida in Iraq.

**WORLD...Page 16**



### Broadway Bound

Mario Lopez will be joining the cast of Broadway's "A Chorus Line."

**LIFE & STYLE...Page 20**

Community pays tribute to late 'Ben Ki'. **PAGE 6**  
Cop in sex abuse of a minor gets probation. **PAGE 7**

# Geragos to cite double jeopardy

## New Miura lawyer says he will challenge arrest warrant

By LINDA DEUTSCH  
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**L**OS ANGELES (AP)—Celebrity attorney Mark Geragos, who has agreed to represent Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura, says his first goal will be to get the charges dismissed on grounds of double jeopardy.



Geragos

See GERAGOS on Page 4

## Warfield wonders how Miura got 4 lawyers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Warfield

Chief Prosecutor Jeffery Warfield wonders how Kazuyoshi Miura managed to retain pop star Michael Jackson's lawyer, Mark J. Geragos, on top of his three other lawyers on Saipan.

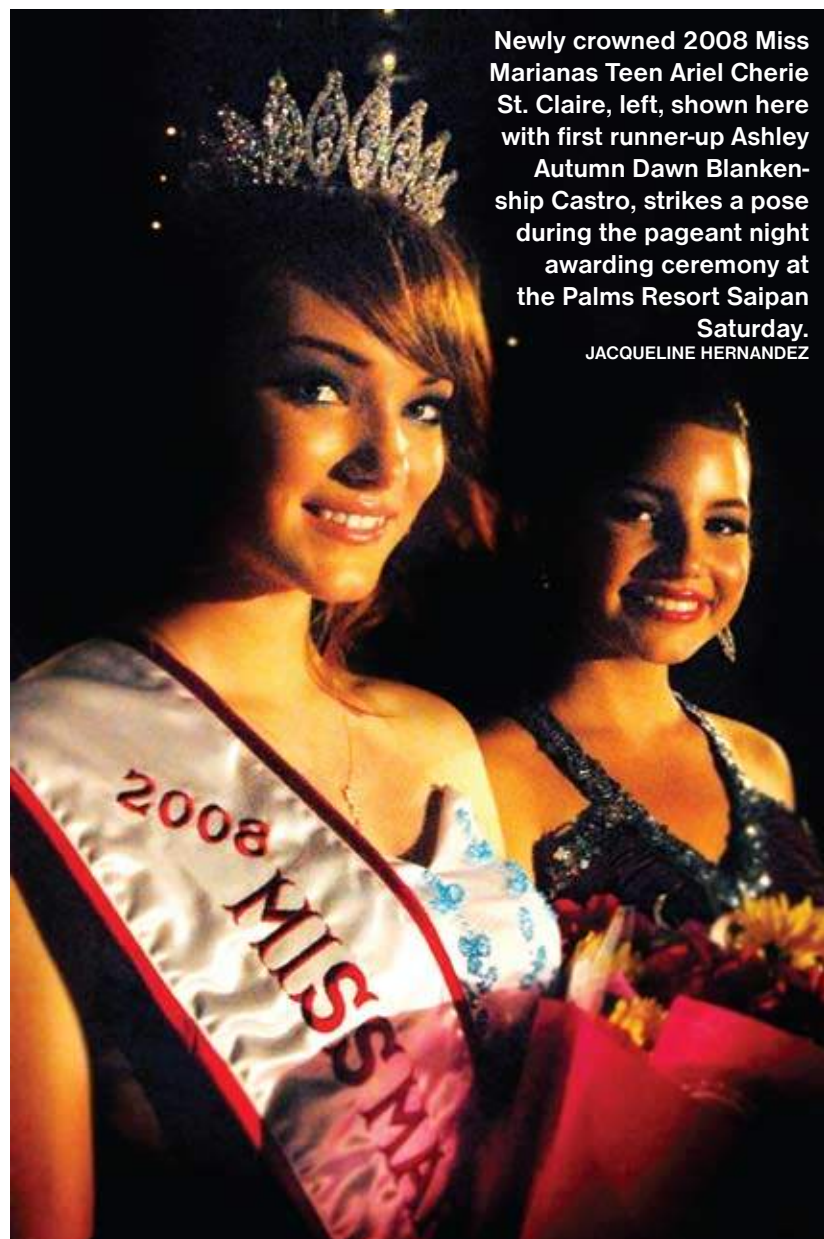
Warfield told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that during a bail hearing in the Superior Court,

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Department of Corrections officers escort 60-year-old murder suspect Kazuyoshi Miura as he emerges from the courtroom after his hearing inside the Superior Court in Susupe.



Newly crowned 2008 Miss Marianas Teen Ariel Cherie St. Claire, left, shown here with first runner-up Ashley Autumn Dawn Blankenship Castro, strikes a pose during the pageant night awarding ceremony at the Palms Resort Saipan Saturday.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## St. Claire captures Miss Teen crown

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN  
Rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Miss Marianas Teen Saturday evening at the Palms Resort Saipan.

Fifteen-year-old Ariel Cherie St. Claire was crowned as this year's Miss Teen in front of a crowd of more

See ST. CLAIRE on Page 4

A Marianas High School student who hopes to one day become a counselor for abused teens was crowned the new

## Fitial says he will nix smoking ban plan

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he will not support legislation recently introduced at the House of Representatives that seeks to ban smoking in restaurants, bars, and

workplaces in the Northern Marianas.

House Bill 16-47, sponsored by Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, proposes to make public places smoke-free. Exemptions include open-air bars, hotel rooms, and outdoor jobsites.

See FITIAL on Page 4

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## Local

# 'Budget bill imperils funding for critical agencies'

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A Saipan lawmaker said the appropriations bill passed by the House last Monday will put in doubt adequate funding for critical agencies because the \$164 million budget proposal sought to address the expected shortfall by plugging in Compact impact funds.

Rep. Tina Sablan said the bill proposes to cut the budgets for certain critical agencies—Department of Public Health, Department of Public Safety, Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Division of

Youth Services, Department of Correction, and Public Defender—by hundreds of thousands, and in some cases millions, of dollars, and to replenish those accounts through Compact impact funding.

The problem, however, is that the Compact impact funding and its distribution is under the sole discretion of the governor, according to the first-term congresswomen.

"I was concerned that the above-mentioned critical agencies would be severely short-changed if, for whatever reason, the governor chooses not to replenish their accounts in

the amounts identified in H.B. 16-51. Compact impact funds are considered grants to the government, and the governor has authority to distribute those funds according to the terms of the grant agreement, and also to reprogram. It was not at all clear to me that there would be anything binding the governor to follow the recommendations of the House for the distribution of these funds," she said in a statement to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan added that the budget bill did not properly prioritize and adequately fund essential public services.

"It seemed to me that we

should have ensured that at least the critical services would receive adequate funding, and that all remaining resources would be distributed to other agencies and programs in order of agreed-upon priorities. That did not happen—and, of course, it did not help that we did not have all the information that we needed from the administration in order to make rational decisions about what agencies actually needed in order to operate," she said.

Another point of concern, she said, is the budget bill did not provide relief measures for residents and businesses that have

long suffered under the high power rates of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"The original draft of the bill had proposed to subsidize fuel through funds freed up by cutting government salaries (cuts of 3 percent, and then 7 percent, had been proposed; I had favored a proportional cut). We knew that the CUC state of emergency that the governor had declared would be expiring soon, which means that power rates would roll back to approximately 17 cents/kwh, in accordance with Public Law 15-94. We also knew that implementing PL 15-94 would mean that CUC would face a serious shortfall in the millions to pay for fuel if a subsidy were not identified soon to cover the true cost of power," she said.

"I have always thought that it was a mistake to artificially lower the power rates through legislation, not only because funding was never identified to cover the shortfall, but also because of the effect that such political interventions have on CUC's credit rating (which is admittedly shot anyway, but it does not need to be made worse)," she added.

Sablan also said that she voted no on the budget bill

because the legislation allows the government to cut contributions to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund at any rate it pleases.

"The Fund has long been treated like a cash cow by past—and present—legislators. The government's abysmally low financial performance rating stems largely from debts owed to the Fund. Actuarial studies have indicated that the government's contribution to the Retirement Fund should be approximately 36 percent. The 15th Legislature passed a law that required only an 18 percent contribution, which is less than ideal, but at least still more than the governor's proposal of 11 percent.

"The 16th House, however, proposed to allow the government to reduce contributions to the Retirement Fund by any amount in which appropriations authorized under the budget Act exceeded available funding for the fiscal year. It was stated on the floor that this would allow the government to withhold payments to the Retirement Fund in order to avoid painful personnel cuts. If the Fund itself came up against any cash shortfall, the budget bill would allow the Fund's trustees to draw upon investment earnings and liquidate assets," she said.

## 2 alien workers file discrimination suit

Two alien workers have filed a discrimination lawsuit in federal court against their former employer who allegedly terminated them for complaining about nonpayment of overtime.

Aurelio T. Lacbayo and Asuncion P. Tudela, through counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, sued Watabe Wedding (a CNMI corporation), for employment discrimination and retaliation.

Lacbayo was employed as a driver, while Tudela worked as a dress maintenance person.

The plaintiffs asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendant to pay them damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Woodruff stated in the complaint that Lacbayo and Tudela were among three Filipino workers employed by Wedding as a majority of the employees are Japanese citizens.

Woodruff said Wedding classified the plaintiffs as "part-time employees" while the Japanese were "full-time."

"As a matter of policy, defendant provided 'full-time' Japanese employees with certain employment benefits, including, but not limited to, paid annual vacation, paid holidays, paid sick leave, and medical insurance coverage, which benefits were not provided to plaintiffs who were classified as 'part-time' em-

ployees," the lawyer said.

He said that sometime in October 2006, the two complained to Wedding about discrimination in overtime compensation in that, unlike the Japanese employees, they were not paid at the overtime rate the hours they worked in excess of 40 hours per week.

Woodruff said that on Oct. 23, 2006, Wedding offered to pay plaintiffs their claimed unpaid overtime wages.

He said that, as a condition to paying their unpaid overtime wages, Wedding required the two to sign a settlement agreement document.

"Notwithstanding the execution of the settlement agreement, defendant failed to take corrective measures and continued its discriminatory practice and policies against plaintiffs," the lawyer said.

In February 2007, Woodruff said, the two were terminated. He said the ground offered for the termination was that Watabe Wedding was downsizing its Saipan office.

"The ground for termination offered by defendant for plaintiffs' termination was pretextual," the lawyer said, citing that it was a retaliation for the plaintiffs' complaining about the company's discriminatory practices. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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### ANTI GRAFFITI

Hardworking members of the Northern Marianas College Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa and Saipan Southern High School National Honor Society spend their Saturday morning cleaning and painting over graffiti on a waiting shed in Koblerville as part of their Anti-Graffiti Campaign. Sherwin Williams generously donated the paints and brushes for the activity.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## Fitial charms Japanese media

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial charmed the Japanese media during a news briefing Friday announcing that the CNMI chief executive has finally received California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's extradition request for Japanese businessmen Kazuyoshi Miura by facsimile and electronic mail.

Fitial smiled and joked with the foreign media and, at one point, said he expects the hard copy of the extradition request would be handed to him by UPS when one Japanese reporter asked him who would be delivering the documents to the governor.

More than 50 Japanese media squeezed into the usually roomy Governor's Office conference room. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes said it was the first time the room was crammed with that many people.

As many as eight film crews and more than a dozen photojournalist jockeyed for position as Fitial read his press release, informing the media that he indeed has received Schwarzenegger's extradition request.

When Fitial was asked by a Japanese reporter if he plans to visit Miura at the Department of Corrections, the islands' chief executive smiled and politely said he feels that it's not part of his job to meet with the accused Japanese businessman.

While chief prosecutor and acting Attorney General Jeffrey Warfield fielded the bulk of questions regarding Schwarzenegger's extradition request, Fitial thanked the Japanese media for putting the CNMI on the world map.

"I think this is a blessing for

the CNMI because it puts the CNMI on many, many maps. Now the whole world is fully aware of where the CNMI is," said the governor. "Although this is not very nice because of this case, at least the CNMI is being exposed internationally, globally; finally they know where Saipan is. That is huge advantage, and benefits the CNMI. It has gained tremendous exposure worldwide. And thank you to all of you."

To express his appreciation to his new friends from Japan, the Governor's Office through the Marianas Visitors Authority will be hosting a luau on Wednesday night.

"I'm inviting all of you to have barbecue with me on the beach. Because I really, really care for your well-being because you people have been working very, very hard and even though most of the time I was not here to see you guys work, I know that you guys have been very working hard," he said.

Fitial, however, said he would insist that they eat only local food.

"I've asked MVA, Mr. Perry-

san [managing director Perry Tenorio] to prepare local food only. 'Cause I understand, I received complaint that people in Japan only eat Japanese food. [Even though] you're on Saipan you still continue to eat Japanese food. So on Wednesday, Mr. Perry-san will prepare non-Japanese food for you," he said.

Tenorio, for his part, informed the Japanese media that he will relay to them the exact time and place where the barbecue would be held.

"I will work closely with [press secretary] Charles Reyes to give you the details. We have yet to identify the venue but for sure it will be held on the beach to give Japanese media the chance to enjoy the local sunset and local food..." he said.

Before Tenorio could finish, Fitial said for sure, "It will be on Saipan..." which elicited laughter from the Japanese media.

He continued to charm his guests when a local reporter asked if they are also invited to the luau. "The local media invited... as long as you wear your Japanese hat... of course, all media is invited..."



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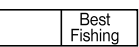


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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Open forum on PL 15-108, regs tomorrow

The Department of Labor invites small businesses to attend an Educational Outreach Forum on PL 15-108 and its Implementing Regulations at 9am tomorrow, March 11, 2008, at the Multi-Purpose Complex in Susupe.

A copy of PL 15-108 and its Implementing Regulations may be downloaded through the Department's new jobs web-

site, [www.marianaslabor.net](http://www.marianaslabor.net), said Cinta M. Kaipat, deputy secretary of Labor.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this free informational session. For information on this session, call 236-0900. **(Labor)**

OES PTSA meeting set

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting tomorrow, March 11, 2008, 6pm in

the school cafeteria. **(PR)**

Beautify CNMI award nominations deadline

The committee chairs of Beautify CNMI are seeking nominations for their annual Beautify CNMI Steward and Beautify CNMI Champion awards. The two awards will be given out at the annual Beautify CNMI anniversary dinner to take place on March 27. The deadline for nominations is this Friday, March 7 2008.

There are two award categories: the Environmental Steward and the Environmental Champion. To nominate an individual or group, submit a written nomination explaining why that person or group deserves recognition.

Send nominations to Angelo Villagomez at [angelovillagomez@gmail.com](mailto:angelovillagomez@gmail.com) or mail them to PO BOX 505149; Saipan, MP 96950 or call the PTI sponsored Beautify CNMI volunteer line at 285-6462 for more information. **(Beautify CNMI)**

ERRATUM

In the story "Mt. Carmel is mock trial champion" published in yesterday's edition, it said that "Mt. Carmel's Jung was also chosen as best defense attorney." It was actually Soo Ji Ha who won the best defense attorney award. Our apologies.

ST. CLAIRE

From Page 1

than 300 people.

St. Claire who has been a model since she was 13 years old, said she was "shocked" when her name was called to receive the crown.

"I really did not expect it. ...But I think I did very well. I gave it my best," said St. Claire.

St. Claire nailed the interview portion with a smooth answer to the question asking her to define the word "courage."

"My definition of courage is when no one else wants to do something, one person would be willing to stand up and take the risk, taking on full responsibility that no one else wants to take," St. Claire said.

She once again wowed the judges during the final round for the top five. She was asked how she would

use today's technology to teach teens how to hold on to their heritage or cultural roots.

"I would teach [them] to search on the Internet first to find out more about their heritage, to use PowerPoint to create a slideshow of their heritage and to further ask people about their heritage," she said.

St. Claire is an active participant in the National Forensic League and Beautify CNMI.

St. Claire said she would like to start support groups for teenagers in the CNMI battling eating disorders such as bulimia and anorexia.

"I have seen many teens who struggle with this and would like to help give them the strength and courage to fight against conformity," said the 2008 Miss Marianas Teen.

St. Claire is the daughter of Michael and Katherine Wheeler.

Named first runner up was one of the crowd's favorites, 15-year-old Ashley

Autumn Dawn Blankenship Castro, who also won Best in Evening Gown.

Castro said she gained many new friends from this experience.

Although nervous on stage in front of hundreds of people, Castro managed to keep her composure by taking a friend's advice: turning any negative energy to positive energy.

Castro said she would go through the whole experience again, "maybe even run for Miss CNMI."

Castro is the daughter of Patrick Castro and Dawn B. Castro.

Also included in the top five were 16-year-old Leilani Sablan Cepeda, who was named Miss Congeniality; 16-year-old Raquel Villagomez, who won the PTI Texter's Choice Award; and 16-year-old Ashley Fujihira, who won the Stellar Star Award and the Best in Fun Fashion Award.

Meanwhile, Christine Shaunte Tude-la, 15, won the Miss Photogenic Award; and 16-year-old Lola Ngeskebei won

the award for Best in Talent.

Other contestants were Sakurako Halstead, 16; Marie Jo Tarope, 16; Renee Manibusan, 15; Pearllyn Techur, 16; Monishia Santos, 16; Crystal Mendiola, 17; Francine Tomei, 15; and Mariah Ngirbabul, 15.

Stellar Marianas president Laila Y. Boyer said the non-profit group "continues to be amazed at the energy and dedication families pull together to give their daughters an opportunity of a lifetime."

"These exceptional young women have grown in character and demonstrated the qualities worthy of being the island's teen ambassador," Boyer said.

Miss Marianas Teen 2007 Kayla Dee Atalig dedicated her final walk to her special friend, the late Vinae T. Sablan Deleon Guerrero, who was a runner-up in the 2007 competition.

Atalig said it was a real honor to have known Deleon Guerrero and that

she will never forget her.

The pageant's mistresses of ceremony were Grace Christian Academy's Keala Peters Camacho and Nicollette Salas Lopes.

The judge's panel included Hae Jae Lee, R.D., L.D., of the Public School System; Jesse D. Torres of Staywell Saipan; CNMI's Legislative Bureau's Francine G. Sablan; Northwest Airlines' Christopher A. Concepcion; and Evelyn M. Ooka of the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

Sponsors of the event were Triple J Motors, Pena House Boutique, Younis Art Studio, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northwest Airlines, Shell Marianas, Dove, Pond's, Suave, Iridescent, Sportica, Power 99, The Rock, Duty Free Shopper's Galleria, Gold's Gym, Palms Resort Saipan, Island Floral's & Gifts, Pacific Telecommunications Inc., Genoveva's Hair Power, and Aquarius Beach Tower.

FITIAL

From Page 1

"I'm against that because you know I just came back from Honolulu last year and I noticed that the occupancy at the hotel I usually stay in has gone down dramatically because the Japanese will never stay there anymore; they don't allow people to smoke anymore at that hotel," the CNMI's chief executive said in an interview Friday.

Fitial feels that a smoking ban in the CNMI is too radical a measure if the House, or for that matter Rep. Quitugua, is concerned about the health of the local community.

"I think if the bill is concerned about the local people's health, there should

be other measures to target the health of people because of smoking. But we should not ban smoking because we know our economy is very dependent on the Japanese and the Asian market. And most of our Japanese and Asian tourists are smokers. I'm not supporting that bill," he said.

The leaders of the islands' biggest business organizations, meanwhile, said that their respective boards have not yet discussed Quitugua's anti-smoking bill but made their personal positions on the controversial measure known.

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Lynn A. Knight, herself a cancer survivor, said she welcomes House Bill 16-47.

"We have not yet had a chance to address this but I would personally be in

favor. Guam and Hawaii have already done this and it has not hurt their tourism industries and it has not improved ours that we allow smoking in public places like restaurants and bars. I care very much about the health of my employees and have invested in smoke filtration equipment for Century Hotel. Also, some guests just do not want to be in a smoky environment so we are starting smoke-free nights at Tribes on Tuesday and Thursdays," she said an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski, in an interview with Radio New Zealand, said many businesses are concerned about the health of their employees.

He, however, expects the anti-smoking bill to be opposed by some

in the tourism sector. "I think some people will fight it on the premise that our tourists from China, Korea, and Japan come from a smoking society, if you want to call it that. And I think that they will put up a reasonable fight for the people who service our tourism industry mostly."

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, for his part, said he will have to consult with the board of the islands' tourism body to determine the MVA's position on the matter.

But the MVA head said the anti-smoking bill will indeed have a serious effect on the islands' key tourism markets of Japan, Korea, and China.

In his 14-page bill, Quitugua cites a long list of studies concerning the

ill effects of secondhand smoke. He also says analyses have shown a link between a smoking ban and the profitability of restaurants and hotels.

"It is the duty of the Commonwealth Legislature to provide a healthy and safe environment for the people of the CNMI as well as for visitors to our islands. This includes establishing smoke-free public and work places for the benefit of all, and particularly for the elderly and children," Quitugua states in his bill.

He adds that a smoking ban will protect the public health and welfare, and guarantee the right of nonsmokers to breathe smoke-free air, and recognize that "the need to breathe smoke-free air shall have priority over the desire to smoke."

WARFIELD

From Page 1

the 60-year-old Miura had stated that he could not afford to hire his own lawyer.

"Now he's got four lawyers!" the chief prosecutor said. He refused to elaborate.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman earlier ordered the defendant to hire his own lawyer after the Adult Probation Office determined that

he could afford an attorney.

Last Friday, Miura's counsels, Bruce Berline, Mark Hanson, and William Fitzgerald, announced that celebrity attorney Geragos has joined their defense team.

When asked Friday how the CNMI Attorney General's Office will respond if Miura files a motion to modify his bail so he could be temporarily released, Warfield said they will challenge any request that Miura be released from custody prior to a decision on the validity of the governor's fugitive warrant

for arrest.

"We feel he is a flight risk. He is wanted for murder. It's a crime that carries a very serious punishment and therefore we are going to ask that he be kept in custody until this matter is resolved appropriately," he said during Friday's press briefing.

On the warrant of arrest issue, Warfield explained that there is only one warrant that will be served on Miura and that is the governor's arrest warrant issued and signed by Gov. Benigno Fitial.

"There is no governor's arrest warrant from California," he said.

At the same press briefing attended by many Japanese media, Fitial agreed that he has the right to deny any recommendation made by the Attorney General with respect to Miura's extradition.

"But that right must be followed with reason. If I have reason to deny, I will consult the Attorney General. But otherwise, after reading the faxed copies, I don't have any reason to deny everything," Fitial said.

The governor said he is just waiting for the Attorney General to advise him if all the original documents are legally sufficient.

"I will follow the law. I'm only following the legally established process," Fitial added.

Fitial had disclosed that the CNMI government has already received from the State of California a faxed copy of the extradition request for Miura.

The governor said they expect to receive the original documents shortly this week, about Tuesday.

GERAGOS

From Page 1

Miura was convicted in Japan in 1994 in the death of his wife but the conviction was overturned on appeal. Although that trial was in Japan, Geragos said he believes U.S. law still prevents Miura from being tried again for the same crime.

"The first thing I'm going to do is challenge the arrest warrant," Geragos told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Miura's arrest last month in the U.S. territory of Saipan has created a sensation in Japan, where his case has been called that country's equivalent to the O.J. Simpson case.

Simpson, a former pro NFL football star turned actor, was acquitted in a criminal trial of the 1994 murders of his wife and her friend. After the families sued for wrongful death, a civil court jury found Simpson liable and ordered him to pay \$33.5 million.

The now-60-year-old Japanese clothing importer said he and his wife

were vacationing in Los Angeles in 1981 when robbers shot him in the leg and her in the head. Kazumi Miura, 28, died the following year in Japan.

The attack, in broad daylight on a busy downtown street, fed fears in Japan that U.S. cities were too dangerous to visit. Los Angeles, preparing to host the 1984 Olympics, was embarrassed.

Police initially seemed to accept Miura's story, but eventually became convinced he had conspired with someone to have his wife killed so he could collect on her life insurance policies. Los Ange-

les and Japanese investigators worked together in building a case against him.

Miura, who is in jail in Saipan awaiting extradition to Los Angeles, has maintained his innocence.

Geragos said he hopes extradition proceedings can be delayed until his petition to have charges dismissed is considered.

The attorney, who has not met his client yet, said he was contacted by Miura's lawyers in Saipan and asked to handle legal matters in Los Angeles.

Geragos, a frequent TV legal commentator whose clients have included

Michael Jackson, Winona Ryder and convicted wife killer Scott Peterson, is no stranger to the limelight. Just last week, he won a multimillion-dollar judgment against a private air charter company that secretly videotaped his conversations with Jackson while he was working for the pop star.

However, he said the blizzard of calls and personal contacts by members of the Japanese news media he has received since word leaked out that he had joined Miura's legal team exceeds anything he has experienced.





**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**  
**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



**NOTICE OF HEARINGS**  
**PENDING LABOR CASES**

**Monday, March 3, 2008 first notice** | **Monday, March 10, 2008 second notice**

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. In particular, if you have wage claims please bring supporting documentation. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you.

If your case has been resolved through a settlement, or you are a claimant and wish to withdraw your claims, please call Jeffrey Camacho, Chief, Enforcement Section, 236-0960, or come to the Enforcement Office at the Department of Labor.

**THIS NOTICE IS POSTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.**

Case Number	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time	Case Number	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
03-310	Agpawa, Celso D.	Ramos, Leonard C.	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-102	Liu, Guihua	LCKG Company, Inc.	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-014	Aiba, Tsuyoshi	Kumanomi dba Café de Colmar	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-156	Liu, Kaixue	Yuuhei Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-206	Alejandro, Josephine C.	Javier, Jeffrey	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-124	Liu, Renqing	Neo Fashion	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-352	Alibio, Evelyn O.	K.S. Chang Corporation	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	04-305	Liu, Xiao Yan	Concorde Garment MFG	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-214	An, Eun Hee	Oak Corporation	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-022	Liu, Yafang	Chang Cheng Int'l Corporation	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
03-310	Andres, Dominador P.	Ramos, Leonard C.	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-371	Liwanag, Leonora S.	Santos, Lorylinda C.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-267	Antalan, Eduardo B.	Pelissamen, Maria E.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-256	Long, Xiaohong	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-337	Antonio, Luz A.	Kaipat, Celina C.	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-374	Lu, Dai Fang	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-077	Anuran, Janeth M.	Manglona, Dwight	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-295	Lu, Kaifeng	Success Corporation	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-161	Azarcon, Eutemio Jr. D.	Tadeo, Wilson P.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.	01-024	Lu, Yan Ling	Li Heng, Ltd.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-036	Belza, Ione M.	Herman's Modern Bakery	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-144	Lu, Yinxiang	Jin Ji Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-278	Bernabe, Carlito E.	Quichocho Security Services	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-356	Lui, Damei	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-321	Brillo, Shirley T.	Camacho Investment Corp.	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-355	Macam, Onofre B.	Agbanlog, Ignacio C. Jr.	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-281	Briones, Warlito A.	BFJ Corporation	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-329	Manalang, Nelia P.	Delos Reyes, Michelle H.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-330	Buerano, Razon M.	Philipan Int'l, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-291	Manalo, Ruby A.	Ellis Miller dba EWGE	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-368	Bustillo, Jonas T.	Printwell, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-215	Mangahis, Jehan A.	ILC Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-386	Cabiao, Emelyn F.	Pacific Island Creation, Inc.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-172	Manzanilla, Aler L.	Mount Carmel School, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-382	Cabiles, Alfredo A.	Saipan Ice & Water Company	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-333	Manzano, Marciano B.	Tenorio, Frankie R.	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-052	Chen, Chunhui	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-167	Martinez, Rosmari N.	Tadeo, Wilson P.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-316	Chen, Hui Zhu	Poong In, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-369	Monteclaro, Danilo B.	Greenstone International	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-227	Chen, Jing	Pangelinan, Mariano	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-370	Niduaza, Eraro S.	Seven Twelve 7.12 Enterprises	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-384	Chen, Junqing	Chen Wang Corporation	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-361	Pan, Jinhua	J.S. Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-289	Chen, Leiyong	De Mei Development Corp.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-324	Pan, Ping	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-221	Chen, Li	Poong In, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-200	Paracha, Celestino G.	United Int'l Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-288	Chen, Lian	De Mei Development Corp.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-366	Park, Yang Soo	Yoo Sung Embroidery	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-148	Chen, Ying	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-299	Parocha, Eduardo S.	Sablan Betelnut Distribution	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.
03-310	Cotin, Renato G.	Ramos, Leonard C.	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-345	Pei, Honglian	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-297	Cueto, Benhur A.	JNJ Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-111	Peng, Siqin	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-151	Dang, Dezhen	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-325	Pesigan, Andrea T.	Bateman, Bruce A.	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-052	Dang, Dezhen	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-350	Pido, Erlinda M.	Orilly, Marilyn P.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-348	Deng, Lijun	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-292	Qian, Feng	L & S Apparel Company	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-182	Deng, Wenhong	Winner's Corporation	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-052	Qian, Guohua	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-326	Dizon, Raymundo V.	Hi-Five Company, Ltd.	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-017	Quiambao, Angelito J.	Dela Rosa, Elinor	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-314	Doblas, Benedicto E.	Younis Art Studio, Inc.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-273	Ren, Qiao Fang	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-178	Esconde, Ramonito O.	Pacific Rainbow (CNMI), Inc.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.	05-142	Ren, Xiu Yan	Maribeth Corporation	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-286	Espinosa, Gilbert A.	Philipan Int'l, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-381	Romew, Antonietta A.	Saipan Ice & Water Company	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-193	Fan, Dongjuan	Success Corporation	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-244	Rubis, Imelda R.	Greenstone International	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-158	Fan, Jianying	Hui Shu Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-240	Salamat, Joel C.	M.R. Phillips Enterprises	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-346	Fan, Xiaoli	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-285	Sanchez, Aurora D.C.	Rifu Apparel Corporation	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-259	Fang, Juanping	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.	00-217	Sawrar, Md. Golam	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-344	Fang, Yu	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-032	Shang, Jijiang	Pacific Lucky Corporation	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-365	Fang, Zhuru	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-255	Shen, Chonglian	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.
03-348	Flores, Joselito B.	Marianas Fashion, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-199	Shi, Huiyan	Concorde Garment MFG	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-196	Francisco, Maria C.D.L.	Reyes, Rebecca	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-379	Shi, Xi	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-213	Fu, Chuilian	Yong Jia Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-367	Shimizu, Tomoko	EIC Mariana, Inc.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-132	Gao, Yueqiang	Hui Long Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-125	Shuang, Ruijiao	Winner's Corporation	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-136	Gao, Zhanquan	Hui Long Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-363	Song, Liwei	World Apparel, Inc.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-266	Garcia, Carmelito C.	Pelissamen, Maria E.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-155	Su, Rulong	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
01-096	Ge, Yuan Qin	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.	01-096	Sun, Hui Ling	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-347	Geng, Luping	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-343	Sun, Xiaoyan	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-146	Getueza, Franco E.	Chong Won Don	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-308	Tambot, Fernando S.	Juang Sig Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.
01-096	Gu, Chun Lan	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-272	Tan, Juan	LCKG Company, Ltd.	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-101	Gu, Jianhua	Yong Cheng Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-174	Tan, Jun	Pentastar Corporation	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-378	Gu, Lianhua	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-320	Tanghal, Cilda B.	Guzman, Linlingay E.	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-357	Guo, Qiongying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-209	Viloria, Russel V.	GPPC, Inc.	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-340	He, Yunfei	Zhang's Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-224	Wang, Fengming	Pacific Lucky Corporation	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-383	He, Yuxiang	Pentastar Corporation	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-313	Wang, Haihua	American Sai Green	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-362	Hu, Guojun	Pacific Lucky Corporation	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-377	Wang, Haixia	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-257	Hu, Xiaojing	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-318	Wang, Hong	Phoenix Corporation	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-392	Huang, Chunyun	Chen Wang Corporation	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-075	Wang, Lixin	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-260	Huang, Riuang	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.	01-096	Wang, Zhong Hua	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-327	Huang, Shui Qing	L & S Apparel Company	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-241	Wei, Yanlin	World Apparel, Inc.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-265	Islam, Tufazzul	Ray's Lawn Care & Maintenance	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-294	Xia, Naijun	Wah Li, Inc.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-349	Izar, Romeo E.	AIC Marianas, Inc.	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-242	Xie, Yunjin	Yuuhei Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
03-488	Jeong, Dong Wook	Falig, Mariano M.	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-233	Xing, Xiao Yu	Shun Yi American Corp.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-293	Ji, Qingping	L & S Apparel Company	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-354	Xu, Huili	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-052	Ji, Richeng	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	01-096	Xu, Jin Ping	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
01-096	Jiang, Quan Mei	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-359	Xu, Shunying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-173	Jiao, Guangcai	TSP, Inc.	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-319	Xu, Xiang Ling	US CNMI Development Corp.	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-274	Jin, Guangxu	K.S. Chang Corporation	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	01-096	Xu, Zhi Xiu	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-375	Jin, Shunnu	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-181	Xue, Boun	Success Corporation	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-380	Jin, Shunyu	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-205	Yan, Yingyue	Top Fashion Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-296	Jovelo, Freddie O.	Jiashen Huang dba Leche	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-020	Yang, Gao Fang	Modern Inc. and Danny Siu	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-052	Kaibin, Wu	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	01-096	Yao, Da Bin	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-385	Ko, Jin Hang	Dr. Ko, LLC	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-258	Yao, Min	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-198	Lai, Lifan	Kyung Seung (Spn), Inc.	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-191	Ye, Jiamin	Top Fashion Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-157	Laurtes, M. Eliza V.D.P.	YCO Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-323	Yu, Haijun	Dragon Corporation	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-150	Li, Fayen	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-335	Yu, Shengxiang	Dragon Corporation	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-117	Li, Feng Ye	Cabrera, Edward C.	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-358	Yu, Weihong	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-360	Li, Guoxing	Pacific Jang's Corporation	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-306	Zhang, Jiamei	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-328	Li, Hai Bo	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	01-096	Zhang, Ju Ying	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-133	Li, Jian	Hui Long Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-194	Zhang, Naiqin	Jin Ji Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-135	Li, Jian Po	Hui Long Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-152	Zhang, Yinxia	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-052	Li, Jiazhu	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-279	Zhao, Chun Xiu	Neo Fashion, Inc.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-353	Li, Lianyu	Jung Uk Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.	01-096	Zhong, Yi Ping	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-170	Li, Xiang Dong	Dela Rosa, Juliana D.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	01-096	Zhou, Guo Ying	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-372	Li, Xiao Yan	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-283	Zhou, Qisen	Y.M. Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-388	Li, Xiuzhi	Ben Tang Game Room	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-143	Zhou, Yincheng	Jin Ji Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-192	Li, Zongyuan	Dela Rosa, Elinor	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	01-096	Zhu, Cai Hong	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-311	Lian, Guoping	United Int'l Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-275	Zhu, Haimei	Yong Cheng Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
01-024	Liang, Jian Ling	Li Heng, Ltd.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	01-096	Zhu, Hui-Hong	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
01-024	Liang, Li Ping	Li Heng, Ltd.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-334	Zhu, Qingzhen	Soleman dba Barracks	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-109	Lim, Romeo Y.	Loste, Eleonor A.	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-376	Zhu, Wen Mei	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-261	Lin, Yanbing	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-373	Zhu, Yinchuan	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-219	Lin, Zhang	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-264	Zhuang, Xuezan	Yong Cheng Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-134	Liu, Guanghui	Hui Long Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.					

**NOTICE OF CLOSURE**  
**AGENCY CASES**

**Monday, March 3, 2008 first notice** | **Monday, March 10, 2008, second notice**

Each of the agency cases listed below has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office, Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final dismissal with prejudice and the agency case has been closed by the Department. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been either adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant or employee of one of the respondents listed below who has not been served personally with the hearing officer's order dismissing the case is now, as of March 10, 2008, served with the order. A person served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A person whose claim has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from March 10, 2008 in



# Community pays tribute to late 'Ben Ki'



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Fifty-six people line up to ring the SCUBA tank as a diving tradition to honor the late Vicente "Ben Ki" M. Concepcion during the memorial unweaving ceremony at the Grotto Saturday afternoon. Concepcion was born on March 8, 1950 and passed away on Jan. 30, 2007 at the age of 56.

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Over a hundred people attended Saturday's unweaving ceremony for a monument at the Grotto that honors the late Vicente "Ben Ki" M. Concepcion.

The Grotto was Concepcion's favorite diving spot and it was also where he discovered two caves that many tourist divers now come out here to marvel at.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said

that Concepcion was "without a doubt a man who was very much loved not only by his family but a large circle of friends, both locally and internationally."

"He was a common man with an uncommon love for the ocean and its rich abundance of treasures. ... He could never resist being away from the serenity and rich sea life that a diver relishes to be with as often as possible," Fitial said.

He added that Concepcion's

love for the ocean was such that he went on to receive formal training and certification as a Coast Guard licensed boat captain and more importantly a Chamorro master diver in the tourism industry.

"It was through Ben Ki's personal commitment in heightening public awareness and arousing renewed passion for diving and the joy of the undersea treasures that led him to discover the major diving spots that tour-

ists and diving aficionados now enjoy today," Fitial said.

Concepcion's only son, Capt. Lawrence Concepcion, also paid tribute to his father at the event.

He said that he is very happy with the blessing of the monument, but also sad because his father could not be there.

"My father was a very humble guy... He would always put people's needs before his own. I know he left a legacy and I know the reason why he was loved by the community—it's

because of his respect for everyone," Lawrence said.

Concepcion's daughter, Marianne C. Teregeyo, thanked the community and government agencies who made the event possible.

Fitial signed into law last year House Bill 15-261, authored by Rep. Justo Quitugua, to install a monument at the Grotto in honor of Concepcion.

"Without the final approval with the stroke of the pen for Public Law 15-101 by the governor, this [the monument] would

not be here. But also it's a great credit to my father. Without his accomplishments, this wouldn't be here," Teregeyo said.

"For everything you did for us, dad, the least we can do is to remember you with this monument," Lawrence said.

Concepcion passed away on Jan. 30, 2007, at the age of 56. In 1972, he and his wife Mariana "Ki" Concepcion opened the islands' first locally owned dive operation, the B.C. Dive Shop, which later became Ben & Ki Watersports Inc.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Vicente "Ben Ki" M. Concepcion's family members pose beside his memorial monument during the unweaving ceremony at the Grotto Saturday afternoon.

## Dive sites to receive emergency care kits

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter and the Marianas Visitor's Authority are working together to provide six emergency care kits to the three main dive sites on the island.

American Red Cross executive director John Hirsch said the three main dives that will be provided emergency care kits will be the Obyan Beach, Lau Lau Beach, and the Grotto.

Each emergency care kit, funded by the American Red Cross at an estimated \$2,000 each, will include emergency bottled oxygen, an automatic external defibrillator, and a

first aid kit.

Hirsch said that the Red Cross will also be providing free emergency training to all dive organizations.

"This would be a huge plus for tourism that these safety equipment will be readily available should an emergency take place so were very pleased to be working with MVA on this," said Hirsch.

MVA's managing director Perry Tenorio also shared that the group is planning to work with the Legislature, "with the governor's approval," for the enactment of a Good Samaritan Law.

The Good Samaritan Law protects rescuers voluntarily helping a victim in distress from

being successfully sued in court (i.e. for wrongdoing).

It is also designed to encourage people to help a stranger who needs assistance by reducing or eliminating the fear that, if they do so, they will suffer possible legal repercussions in the event that they inadvertently make a mistake in treating the victim.

The Good Samaritan Law differ from state to state. Most states require that the victim not object to receiving aid, but do not include the victim's consent, which, evidently could not be given if the victim was unconscious.

Tenorio said that, with the law, he hopes that lives lost would be minimal.

## LISS conducts nature walk

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Ladera International School of Saipan conducted its first health and nature walk recently involving its students from kindergarten to fourth grade and high school.

The nature and health walk allowed each student to value life and a clean environment.

During the week prior to the event, LISS teachers capitalized on health and nature topics where students applied their experiences and expectations

to the activity. Teachers then enforced the activity with the actual program at the beach and during the walk.

"Making every experience an educational one is important at LISS," LISS director Wayne Pangelinan said.

He said that creating more programs and activities will enhance better learning.

The school recently appointed Marissa McGuire to chair LISS' students seasonal programs and activities.

"Our students will be able to experience more and at the same time enjoy," Pangelinan said.

LISS' student body president, Dhainee Pfafflin, said that she thought the health and nature walk went very well.

"Students enjoyed the outing as it created a united front amongst all students with different ethnic backgrounds at LISS," said Pfafflin.

She added that she got closer to the lower grades which she thought was really beneficial on her part because she always wanted to know how the other students feel about the school.

She said her duty as the student body president is to listen to students' opinions and relay their messages to school teachers and principal.



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
State Board of Education  
Public School System  
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



### INVITATION FOR BID IFB 08-020

The Public School System and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **School and Office Furniture, Computers, LCD Projectors, and Accessories for Marianas High School, Saipan and Tinian Elementary School, Tinian**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-020" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **March 25, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-020, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$ 3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008 and extending further, until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of \$ 7.50 per hour.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with CNMI Public School System Procurement Regulations. Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the Contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

The CNMI Public School System hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

Pursuant to the Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) Calendar days beginning with the date of Notice to Proceed. The Contractor shall pay to the CNMI Public School System the greater sum of U.S. **\$100.00 per day (One Hundred Dollars)**, or **2% of the total contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time**, not as a penalty, but as reasonable liquidated damages for failing, neglecting, or refusing to complete the work within the time herein specified, and said sums shall be paid for each consecutive calendar day that the Contractor shall be in default beyond the time stipulated for completing the work.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: [delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp](mailto:delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp).

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/s/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**  
Commissioner of Education

/s/ **Manuel A. Sablan**  
NMHC Board Chairman

/s/ **Carl de la Cruz, M.B.A.**  
Acting P&S Officer



# Cop in sex abuse of a minor gets probation

By **FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a one-year supervised probation sentence on a police officer who sexually abused a minor girl.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Police Officer 2 Misael L. Romolor to six months in prison, all suspended, for sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree.

Wiseman said the offense has been classified as a misdemeanor in view of the minor being over the age of 16.

The crime, the judge said, carries a maximum sentence of one year in jail and up to \$1,000 fine.

"In this case, the court finds no criminal history of the defendant and the act did not involve any penetration," Wiseman said.

He ordered Romolor to pay a \$500 fine, \$25 court assessment fee plus a probation fee.

## Man arrested for domestic abuse, but wife says injuries just pimples

Police arrested a 33-year-old man who allegedly beat up his wife in the presence of their minor children at their residence in Kagman 3.

Alvin F. Santos was arrested for assault and battery.

The victim reportedly suffered bruises and scratches in the neck and chest but she told a responding police officer the marks were only pimples and that she and Santos were only arguing.

Police said that two children, however, told police that Santos punched their mother in the face and kicked her.

The children said their father also held their mother's neck while pinning her to the bed.

The defendant is required to perform 80 hours of community work service.

The judge directed the suspended police officer to report to the Community Guidance Center for an initial evaluation and to undergo any recommended treatment.

Romolor and counsel George L. Hasselback signed a plea agreement with the government.

Romolor pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree.

Chief Prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr. stated in the information that on June 23, 2007, the defendant, being 39 then, engaged in sexual contact with the victim, who is 17 years old.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Department of Public Safety suspended Romolor as a result of the incident.

Romolor's last assignment at DPS was at the Summons Section.

## Guam GOP elects delegates to nat'l convention

Over 500 delegates attended the Republican Party of Guam State Convention Saturday afternoon at the Nikko Hotel in Tumon.

Included in the day's activities was the delivery of a message from Sen. John McCain to the Guam Convention delegates, followed by a unanimous casting of votes for the senator's presidential campaign.

Guam has nine votes at the National Convention.

New party officers were also elected. They are Jess Torres, chairman; Faye Ovalles, first vice chair; Victor Cruz, second vice chair; Maria Connelly, secretary; Joseph Cabana, treasurer; Ben Pinaula, sergeant-at-arms; Peter Alexis Ada, national committeeman; and Mary C. Torres,

national committeewoman.

Delegates elected to attend the Republican National Convention to be held Sept. 1-4 in Minneapolis were Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, acting Speaker Ray Tenorio, first lady Joanne Camacho, former lieutenant governor Frank F. Blas, former senator Larry Kasperbauer, and Manny Cruz.

Jess Torres, Peter Alexis Ada and Mary Torres will also be attending the convention in their respective roles as National Committee members.

Chosen as alternates to the National Convention were Dr. Eduardo Cruz, Maria Connelly, former Dededo vice mayor Larry Rivera, attorney David Mair, and Anisia Terlaje. **(GOP)**

## \$2.5M for brownfields environmental job training

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Thirteen communities in 10 states will share more than \$2.5 million in job training grants geared toward cleaning up contaminated properties and turning them into productive community assets.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under its

Brownfields Initiative, is awarding grants of up to \$200,000 each to non-profit organizations, local governments, a university, and a tribe.

The grants will teach environmental assessment and cleanup job skills to individuals living in low-income areas near brownfields sites in Alabama, Califor-

nia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Washington.

"Through brownfields job training grants, EPA is literally putting both people and property back to work," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "By teaching people the skills

to revitalize their own neighborhoods, EPA is improving lives and livelihoods in communities across the nation."

Since 1998, EPA has awarded more than \$23 million in brownfields job training funds. Approximately 4,000 people have completed training programs, with more than 2,500 obtaining employment in the environmental field, earning an average wage of \$13.93 per hour. The program is designed to ensure that the economic benefits derived from brownfields redevelopment remain in the affected communities.

EPA's brownfields program encourages redevelopment of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites. Since the beginning of the program, EPA has awarded more than 1,000 assessment grants totaling approximately \$262 million, 200 revolving loan fund grants totaling more than \$200 million, and 325 cleanup grants totaling approximately \$65 million. EPA's brownfields assistance has attracted more than \$9.9 billion in private investment and helped attract more than 45,000 jobs. **(EPA)**

### SECURITY TRAINING

The Kagman Juvenile Detention staff complete their first phase of training in Basic Security Concepts Training and Direct Supervision. Pictured are, front, Margaret Teigita and acting Operation supervisor Ricardo Rasa. Back row, from left, are instructor Floyd Masga, Ben Tagabuel, Frank Robert, Vincent Limes, Victor Laniyo, and Nathan Bermudes.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### BOARD OF PAROLE

P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641  
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310  
E-mail: govbp@pticom.com



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Governor Benigno R. Fitia and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **March 13, 2008 (Thursday)** beginning at 8:30 a.m., and, if need be, to continue on **March 14, 2008, (Friday)** at 9:00 a.m. at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room, Susupe, Saipan**. The following items are included in the agenda:

- I. Preliminary Matters**
  1. Call to order
  2. Roll call
  3. Presence of Quorum
- II. Consent Items**
  1. Adoption of Agenda
  2. Adoption of Parole Hearing Minutes - February 08, 2008
- III. Parole Application**

<b>BOP No.</b>	<b>Criminal Case No.</b>
1. Doreen M. Tudela 08-002	07-0134E
- IV. Re-Application**

<b>BOP No.</b>	<b>Criminal Case No.</b>
1. Mei Ying Yen 08-RA-002	01-0128D
2. Gabriel Grothog 08-RA-003	02-267E
- VI. Adjournment**

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 up to 3302.

/s/ **Ramon B. Camacho**  
Chairman, Board of Parole Date: 3/3/08

## VEHICLE FOR SALE

## 1997 NISSAN PATHFINDER

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam credit Department at telephone number (670) 233-5000 extension 205, 206, 207 and 208.

Bids will be closed on

**Monday, March 10, 2008**  
**at 3:00 p.m.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

**BANK OF GUAM**  
THE PEOPLE'S BANK

Member FDIC

P.O. Box 500678, Saipan MP 96950

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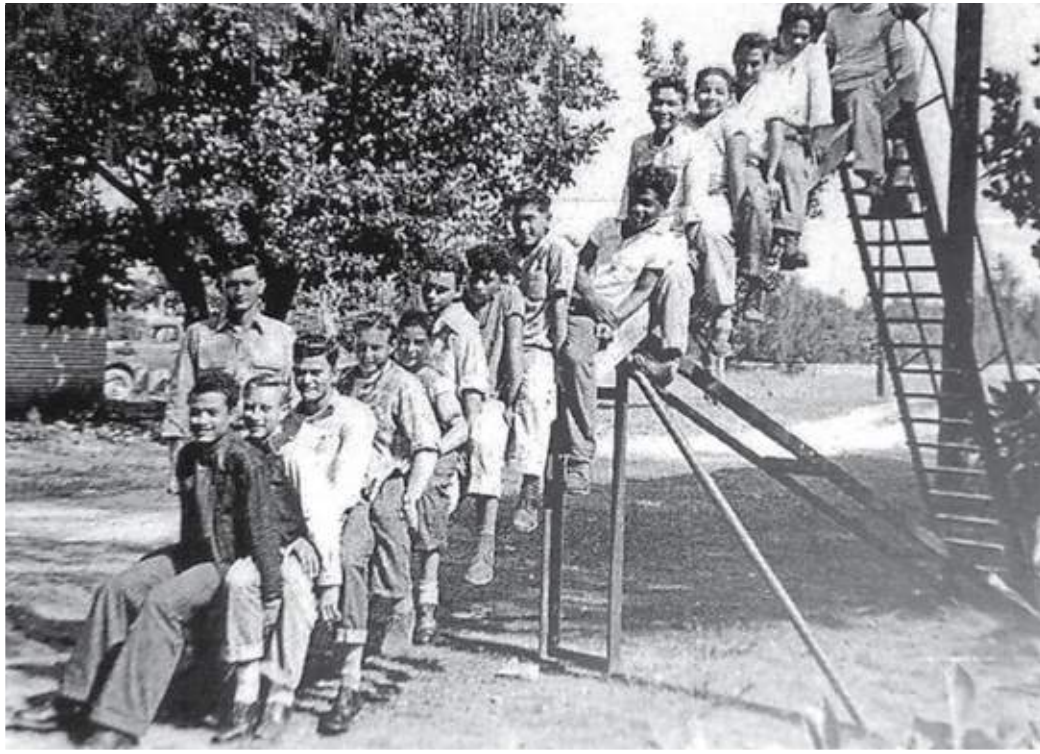
We are located at beach road next to Megabyte.



## A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years

PHOTO BY DMS  
Navy Department School (1948 to 1950) Physical Education Class. Mr. Don Barry, standing at the bottom of the slide was the physical teacher from New York state.



# When marine mammals are stranded

## What to do during stranding events

Would you know what to do if you witnessed a whale or dolphin beached on our local shores? What about a group of dolphins or even a stranded female whale or her calf?

Would you like to be part of a trained marine mammal stranding response effort? Volunteers are needed and we are asking for your participation.

Marine mammal strandings have occurred along the Commonwealth's coasts but documented events are relatively uncommon. Scientists and resource managers are concerned, however, that with the increase of regional U.S. military activity and upcoming plans for harbors re-dredging, there is a higher potential for whale and dolphin disorientation events.

To support the CNMI's efforts to better prepare for marine mammal strandings, David Schofield, Pacific Region Marine Mammal Stranding Response Coordinator of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, will be arriving for a weeklong visit.

The CNMI's pelagic waters

are inhabited by several species of dolphins, particularly the spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*), and by several whale species, including the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). When stressed, these highly intelligent species can lose their way and end up upon coastal beaches and coral reefs, at times still alive. Rescues can sometimes be successfully coordinated by trained volunteers and even dead animals can be important sources of scientific information.

The Northern Marianas College Science faculty, in close coordination with DFW's Fisheries Program, obtained a grant to better enable responses for stranding events, beginning with pre-placed supplies and equipment.

As many recall, in late February and early March of 2005, NMC staff, students, and community volunteers from Saipan and Tinian successfully recovered the entire skeleton from a beached Bryde's Whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*). The large male whale had washed ashore

at Masalok Beach, Tinian. NMC faculty and staff participants included Barry Wonenberg, Lawrence Duponcheel, Simon Habegger, Howard Cole, and John Furey.

Permission from the NOAA Office of Protected Resources allowed for the recovery of the skeleton to use as a public display for the planned Marine and Environmental Science Research and Mariculture Demonstration Center at Pau Pau Beach. Several local private companies also significantly supported the skeleton recovery effort.

The entire skull, jaws, ribs, backbone, and most of the appendicular elements of the skeleton are still in great shape. These were cleaned by student, faculty, and community volunteers and are in protective storage at NMC.

The Center's construction hopefully will soon be moving forward. Site archeology concerns were identified and efforts to document and protect these are underway. Volunteers to assist with site artifact recovery

and lab work are being sought as well.

The Western Pacific Academy of Science and Environmental Management, which held its first group meeting in April 2004, is an ongoing CNMI-based science and environmental management association organized to help host public science and environmental management presentations.

The group holds both general meetings, which are multiple topic presentations held annually, and special meetings that are single topic focus presentations schedulable any time. The CNMI public is always invited and encouraged to actively participate in all Academy meetings.

A special academy meeting for Schofield's presentation will be held at the American Memorial Park Auditorium on Wednesday, March 12, beginning at 7pm. Everyone is invited.

For more information, contact John Furey at 234-5103 and via email [jfurey@saipan.com](mailto:jfurey@saipan.com), or Glenn Keaton at 234-5498, ext. 1200 and via email [glennk@nmcnet.edu](mailto:glennk@nmcnet.edu). (PR)

# Applicants sought for renewable energy loans, grants

WASHINGTON—Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced during an international renewable energy conference that USDA will accept \$220.9 million in loan and grant applications within USDA's Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program.

"As demand for energy rises, these renewable energy loans and grants help farms and rural small businesses increase their investment in renewable energy initiatives," said Schafer, speaking at the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference. "Energy efficiency wisely applies our resources, and energizes wealth-creation opportunities with more jobs throughout rural America."

Loan guarantees and grants are available to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements.

Eligible applicants may seek loan guarantees to cover up to 50 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed \$10 million. Grants are available for up to 25 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements and \$500,000 for renewable energy systems.

USDA Rural Development has invested \$674 million in more than 1,763 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects since 2001. These investments include ethanol, biodiesel, wind, solar, geothermal,

methane gas recovery systems and biomass.

The Bush administration's Farm Bill proposal recommends a \$1.6 billion increase in renewable energy funding. Were Congress to agree, cellulosic ethanol development proposals would receive a \$2.1 billion loan guarantee program, while \$500 million would be available for bioenergy and bio-products research programs, as well as another \$500 million for renewable energy development and energy efficiency grants. Details are available at [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill).

USDA will issue one grant solicitation for two separate competitions in FY 2008. For the first competitive window, grant-only applications must be submitted

no later than April 15, 2008. For the second competitive window, grant-only applications must be submitted no earlier than April 16, 2008, and no later than June 16, 2008. Applications for loan guarantees, as well as those for loan/grant combinations must be completed and submitted to the appropriate USDA Rural Development State Office no later than June 16, 2008.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. (USDA)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 10, 2000

### Consumer prices up

The regional economic upheavals, which pushed many businesses to the edge, have affected the retail industry in the CNMI as the commerce department recorded a significant increase in the overall consumer price index during the last quarter of 1999, compared with the same period in 1998. A weighted consumer price survey released by the Central Statistics Division of the Department of Commerce for the 4th quarter of 1999 revealed a 3.4 index increase in the five commodity sectors to 269.6 from the previous year's 266.2.

### Bill seeks inclusion of diabetes in health insurance coverage

A Senate proposal will require health insurance providers on the island to include people with diabetes in their coverage in order to avoid complications and bring down medical care costs. The legislation, offered by Senate President Paul A. Manglona, is expected to be tackled at today's session of the upper house to be held on Rota.

### Tourist arrivals climb 11 percent in Feb.

Visitor arrivals for the month of February 2000 jumped 11 percent compared to the same month of the previous year totaling 45,997, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. Arrivals from Japan, the island's biggest source of tourists, increased 12 percent. Korean market shot up 30 percent. The U.S. mainland tourist arrivals slightly grew by seven percent while Guam posted a four percent hike.

March 10, 2003

### Tourism expects to get hit

After posting an all-time high visitor arrival in January, the Commonwealth is projecting a diminishing number of visitors this month, as the CNMI's premier tourism market-Japan-projects a downtrend in outbound travel due to the threat of war and the crisis brought on by the revival of North Korea's nuclear program. Reduction in Japanese outbound travel is expected to impact on various tourism destinations in the world, as the trend veers away from the strong performance of Japanese outbound travel market in the last quarter of 2002. Last year, the number of traveling Japanese reached some 16.514 million.

### 26 HS teachers have elementary education degrees

Public School System records show that some 26 teachers who are teaching in secondary schools hold a bachelor's degree in elementary education. The PSS' 2003 directory showed that, of the 30 teachers at the Cha Cha Junior High School, seven finished Bachelor of Arts/Science in elementary education degrees; Hopwood Junior High School has nine of 52; Saipan Southern High School has three of 27; Tinian Junior and High School has two of 26; Rota High School has one of 16; and Rota Junior has three of nine.

### BOE opposes beautification tax

Citing lack of consultation and foresight on the part of the Legislature, the Board of Education has criticized the recent passage of the Environmental Beautification Tax Act and asked that it be amended to exempt CNMI's educational institutions from its coverage. BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero and board member Marja Lee Taitano described the law as self-defeating.

March 10, 2004

### 'Start submerged lands talks'

Local officials and private groups have formed a task force that asked Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday to initiate negotiations with the federal government to settle the dispute over the ownership of submerged lands in the CNMI. The task force, chaired by Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona, said the proper forum to address the dispute is the Section 902 negotiations.

### Norita: No need to contract private firm

The chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations made known yesterday his disapproval over the administration's decision to contract out the development of the CNMI's Homeland Security Strategic Plan to a private firm for the price of \$400,000. Rep. Clyde K. Norita said during a session yesterday that grant writing is an undertaking that the CNMI government is capable of doing in-house through its pool of grant writers and administrators.



# 2008 Miss Marianas Teen Pageant



Miss Marianas Teen 2007 Kayla Dee Atalig waves goodbye to the crowd during her final walk, which she dedicated to a special friend, the late Vinae T. Sablan Deleon Guerrero, who was a runner-up in the 2007 competition.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



The lovely 2008 Miss Marianas Teen contestants gather for a photo after the pageant on Saturday evening at the Palms Resort Saipan.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



2008 Miss Marianas Teen top five are Ashley Fujihira, Ariel Cherie St. Claire, Ashley Castro, Raquel Villagomez, and Leilani Sablan Cepeda.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



2007 Little Miss Marianas Kayla Borja, 2007 Little Miss Marianas princess Cassandra Royal, Miss Marianas Teen 2007 Kayla Dee Atalig, and newly crowned 2008 Miss Marianas Teen Ariel Cherie St. Claire pose for a photo with princess of honor Rica Ada.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



The hardworking committee members and volunteers of the Stellar Marianas gather for a photo with 2008 Miss Marianas Teen Ariel Cherie St. Claire.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Miss Marianas Teen Ariel Cherie St. Claire with her proud parents Michael and Katherine Wheeler.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## BEST IN EVENING WEAR

First runner-up 15-year-old Ashley Autumn Dawn Blankenship Castro won Best in Evening Gown.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## BEST IN TALENT

Sixteen-year-old Lola Ngeskebei won the award for Best in Talent.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## MISS CONGENIALITY

Sixteen-year-old Leilani Sablan Cepeda was named Miss Congeniality.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## MISS PHOTOGENIC

Christine Shaunte Tudela, 15, won the Miss Photogenic Award.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## STELLAR STAR AWARD AND BEST IN FUN FASHION

Sixteen-year-old Ashley Fujihira won the Stellar Star Award and the Best in Fun Fashion Award.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## TEXTERS CHOICE AWARD

Sixteen-year-old Raquel Villagomez won the PTI Texter's Choice Award;  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER  
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Fixing the FDA

At least 19 people died and hundreds became ill after being given heparin, a blood-thinning drug sold by Baxter International. A belated inspection of the Chinese plant where heparin's active ingredient was processed found "objectional conditions," and recent lab tests revealed an unknown contaminant in batches of the drug. Investigations so far have not identified what precisely caused the allergic reactions. Still, they have exposed major problems with how the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) runs inspections that, even if not the cause of this particular catastrophe, will certainly lead to one.

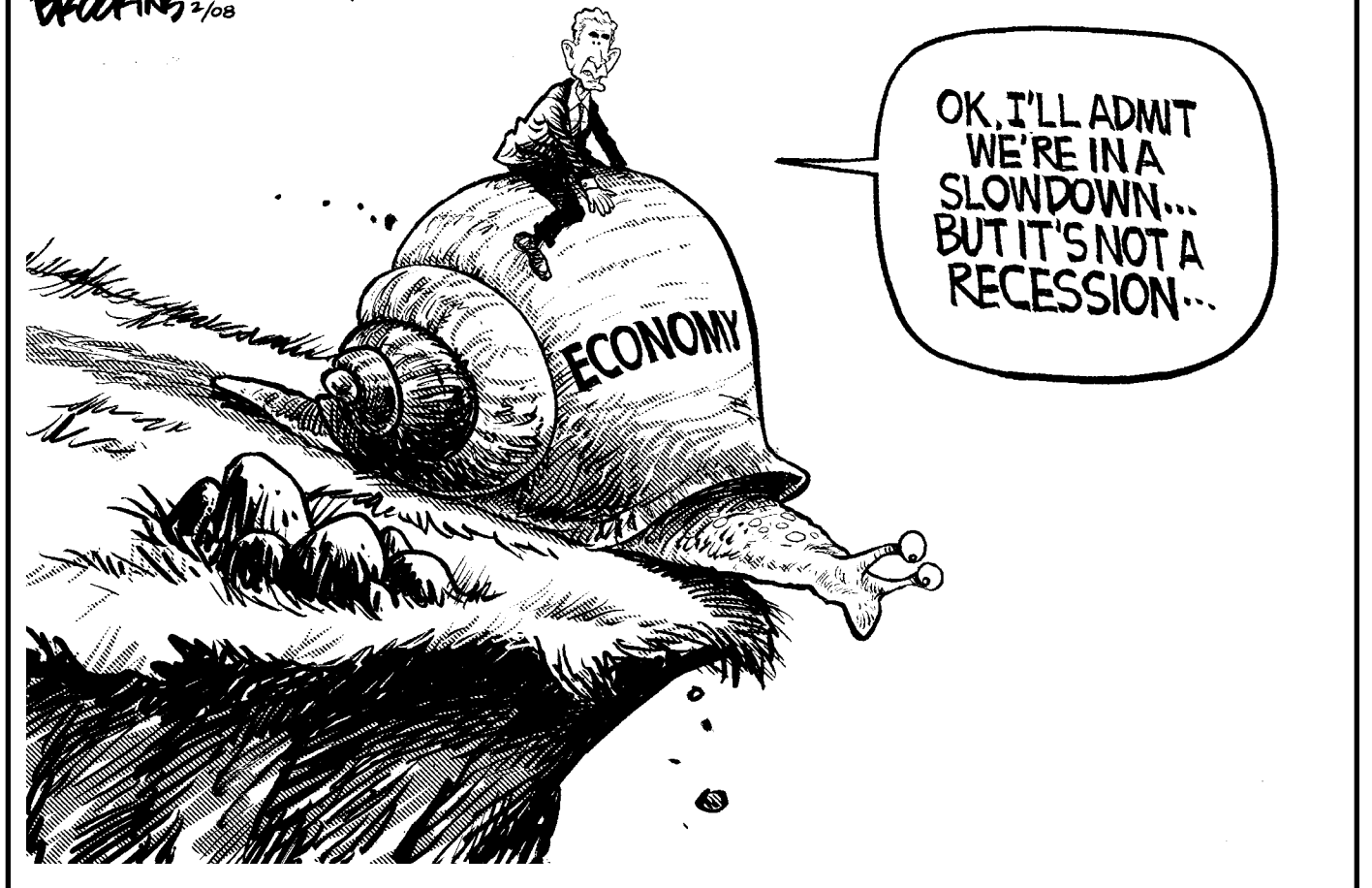
Currently, 80 percent of all active drug ingredients come from abroad, but the FDA doesn't know what percentage of foreign manufacturing facilities it has inspected. Many of these plants are in developing countries that don't have infrastructure that meets U.S. safety standards. In response to the heparin case, China said ensuring drug safety is the importing country's responsibility.

The FDA has been scolded about this yawning loophole in drug safety for over a decade but has not acted to fill it. Funding is the main problem. The FDA doesn't have the resources to meet its statutory mandate to inspect domestic plants every two years, let alone inspect plants abroad; a recent Government Accountability Office report estimated that the FDA can inspect foreign firms on average once every 13 years. And in the rare cases where the FDA does visit foreign plants, officials give advance warning and rely on translators supplied by the companies being inspected, compromising the integrity of the inspections.

The agency also uses antiquated, incomplete databases that don't talk to one another, which led officials to believe they'd already inspected the heparin plant in China when actually they'd been to one with a similar name. Without good data, there's no way to create an accurate, risk-based enforcement model, and no way for FDA officials to be held accountable.

The FDA very evidently needs more money, either through appropriations or user fees (which under current law can't be used for follow-up surveillance inspections). How much is unclear, since FDA officials won't say how much more in the way of money or inspectors is needed to carry out their expanding mission, claiming it's not their job to decide. We don't know whether their silence is attributable to their shyness or threats from the Bush administration. But when the safety of the American public is being risked by their financial inability to do their jobs, they need to speak up. That's the only way lawmakers — who last year gave the FDA (begin ital) more (end ital) money than the Bush administration had asked for — can relieve FDA officials of their remaining excuses for nonperformance.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

BROOKINGS RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH  
2/08

## What happened to our booming economy?

First of a two-part series

Sometimes I get the feeling that our feet are walking forward but our heads are screwed on backward. We yearn for 1986 through 1997—the “golden years.” During this period everybody and everything was on a roll making money and tourists were flooding into the CNMI. Land was being leased at fabulous prices. New hotels and other attractions were filling the skyline of Saipan. We actually reached over 736,000 guests in 1996. Ah, yes, those were the good old days. How we wish they would come back. Sigh! Sigh! But....

Today the picture has turned quite bleak. Government laments that revenue is way below previous years. Tourists are not flocking here as previously. No new hotels are piercing the skyline. Investors have become endangered species. Garment factories are obsolete. Indigenous people are packing up and flying off to happier hunting grounds. How could this have happened? After all, what did we do to scare them off? And, of course, the usual question: Who is to blame? It's not our fault. Right?

After all, this is our land. If investors and tourists want to come here, then they have to play by our rules. And if the rules change a bit too frequently they have to understand that that's our “culture.” But wait a minute! Is this being realistic? Do they have to come here? What is so special or unique about our islands that investors and tourists will accept us on our terms?

Let's pause and take a hard look at ourselves and see if maybe—just maybe—we haven't created some of the dilemma we are in. As Pogo, the famous cartoon character, says: “We have met the enemy and he is us.”

I recall as a salesman years ago that whenever a sale was going bad and the customer said “no,” I would always ask: “I understand the surface reason why you just said no, but now please tell me the ‘real underlining reason.’” Then he would tell me the “real underlining” reason. Once I knew the “real” reason. I was able to close the sale despite the initial no.

I truly believe that we can recapture the lost business investments and tourists if we search for the “real” reasons why investors and tourists have lost interest in coming here. The key word in the above sentence is “real.” Somehow we have alienated our friends. Now we have to find out what we must do to regain their confidence in us again.

It will take a bit of soul-searching and admitting that we ourselves actually caused a great deal of the trouble we currently are in. The answers will surprise us if we are honest and truthful with ourselves. I learned a long time ago that when a business begins to lose money or fail, 95 percent of the time it is management's fault! Yes, 95 percent of the time!

Consider—the islands are as beautiful as ever and the sunsets are still breathtaking. The ocean is still blue and as enticing. The people are as friendly as always. We are the same people living in the same lovely islands as we were in the prosperous '80s and '90s. All of

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.*



this has not changed. So what changed that investors and tourists are bypassing us?

The answers are obvious if we open our eyes to see and our ears to hear. As any addict or any other truly sick person knows: Until he admits that he has a problem and desires to improve, all the remedies are useless. It is a painful beginning to admit one's shortcomings, but once they are acknowledged recovery can begin. There is no need for finger-pointing or accusations. As we are all a part of the problem, so we all must be part of the solution.

I write this article with great hope and optimism that we will understand and accept where we went wrong. Once we understand that, we will be able to see solutions and alternatives that we remain blinded to because of our reluctance to accept responsibility. I repeat, just as we created the prosperous years, we can recreate them again if we are willing to stop the self-denials and pay the price that will be required. We need to do a better job of seeing ourselves as others see us.

The islands cannot remake themselves, but its people can. We keep forgetting that it is people who make other people act or react toward our wishes or away from them. The government may or may not have a sound economic plan, but a plan is only as good as the people who implement it. No one cares about anybody else's plan unless he sees an advantage in it for himself. All actions must be a win-win situation. All sides must come out as winners. This has not been the case recently.

Again we must examine the question: Why have potential investors turned their backs on the CNMI? Why are the tourists not coming here? Why have the airlines deserted us or the remaining ones cut back on their services to us? Are we ready for self-examination and for the sacrifices necessary to recreate our prosperity?

Let's search for the “real reasons,” not the surface ones. When we find the real reasons, let's accept them and make the necessary changes. We must take our heads out of the sand. The only thing that happens to a bird with his head in the sand is a kick in his rear. By sincerely talking to one another, the answers will come out.

Everything has changed. The world economic situation has changed. Investors have changed. So we must change and adapt to these changes. We must change our attitude and stop thinking that the CNMI is the “end of the investment rainbow.” Next week let's examine what are some of the things we can start doing even though the end results will take a bit of time.



**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Time to apply ‘American Idol’ rules to politics

By JIM SHEA  
(C) 2008, THE HARTFORD COURANT

Americans, by nature, are a direct people. We’ll tell you if we like you. We’ll tell you if we don’t like you. We’ll tell you if we think your mother dresses you funny.

This directness is one reason why reality shows are so popular. There is no beating around the bush: You’re fired. You’re voted off the island. Get out. Get over it.

“American Idol” is an example. Contestants stand up and sing. Judges tell them straight out that they are good, bad, delusional -- or all of the above.

This penchant for being direct also explains Sen. John McCain’s sudden surge in popularity.

McCain is DOA with the Republican base on many issues. But he’s developed traction by giving political reporters rides on his bus and championing himself as being the straightest shooter since John Wayne.

And it seems to be working, despite the fact that everyone knows that anybody who has been in the U.S. Senate for any longer than 10 minutes wouldn’t recognize candor if it took ‘em to lunch.

There are two major American institutions that choose indirectness over directness.

One is the Bowl Championship Series, the system employed by college football to determine the national champion. Basically the

way the BCS works is this: instead of teams deciding the championship on the field, geeks decide the championship on a computer.

The other institution in which Americans take the long way home is the process through which we pick our president.

It began in Iowa at something called the caucuses, where winners were determined by actual, physical blocks of people.

Then it shifted to New Hampshire, a state in which the post-nasal drip is so severe that it leads to mass brain dehydration and the delusion that the self-obsessed population possesses political insight.

If the Democrats had their act together, the GOP nominee could have been anyone from Senator Wide Stance to SpongeBob SquarePants.

Of course, even coming out on top after the primaries are over does not guarantee that the winner will be the nominee. This is because there is the convention, where yet another layer of voting takes place by state delegates.

Somehow, some way, each party eventually ends up with a nominee.

We then go to the general election, where tens of millions of people cast their ballots and the person with the most votes doesn’t necessarily become president.

This determination is actually made by the Supreme Court or the Electoral College, which, one of these years, could be determined college football’s national champion by the BCS.

*Shea is a columnist for The Courant.*

## Letters to the Editor

# A letter to Mr. Indigenous

To the secretary of the once-GOP-now-turned Covenant Kimo Mafnas Rosario of the new Indigenous group: Apparently you are not a true Northern Marianas descent because you lack the knowledge and understanding of the contents and intent of legislative initiatives 16-3 and 16-5 which propose to deprive the real and true NMDs of our homeland of \$30 million invested, entrusted and protected monies by MPLT.

Your new indigenous group fully supports these shameful and disrespectful legislative initiatives without properly researching, reviewing and understanding their intentions. You are saying it’s okay to take \$30 million of NMDs monies to support a mismanaged and politicized public utilities corporation! Boy, Mr. Indigenous, you just contradicted your group’s mission of protecting indigenous tights in order to satisfy your own utility billing and forget the future of the real NMDs.

Let me reiterate your new group’s mission: “to fight for self-government and indigenous rights.” Why don’t we just forward a copy of your description of your once political affiliation, the GOP, and let us see how this indigenous GOP group is going to react to your comments. You see, Mr. Indigenous, the real problem with a self-proclaimed, woke-up yesterday group, is that you are all full of crab-in-the-bucket mentalities and are as racist as they come. Must be a privilege to be able to collaborate with offices such as the Carolinian Affairs, Indigenous Affairs, and Women’s Affairs. Taotao Tano would have never been formed if the In-

digenous Affairs and Carolinian Affairs had done their jobs in protecting the rights of indigenous local Chamorros and Carolinian people in the first place! Last time we checked with the Carolinian Affairs to seek a translation of the word “direcho” in Carolinian language, the person on the phone had to seek help from his director in translating. Likewise the Office of indigenous Affairs.

Concerning gainful employment, Taotao Tano we will not tolerate any group that seeks to make money off the unemployed and employer’s for profit as an employment agency!

Furthermore, please do not call yourselves the “silent majority” for you are insulting and disrespecting the true silent majority in our homeland. Word of advice: When advocating indigenous rights, ensure that you get your facts straight, and don’t count on the Spaniard or Magellan history to bail you out of this modern technological world we are in today, for the problems we fight now were created in modern times and also stand clear when you talk about “indigenous” for we have a diversified community who are all indigenous in their own righteous way. *Taimamalao yan taya respeto.*

**Gregorio Cruz Jr.**  
*President*  
*Taotao Tano*

# Response to an ‘interesting’ letter

I am writing to thank Mr. Gregorio Cruz Jr., president of Taotao Tano, for his interesting letter I read in Friday’s papers responding to my comments on current labor and immigration practices that were published in the paper.

Mr. Cruz said we should “stop making excuses” for the “creation” of Dekada. Believe me, we make no excuses for the creation of Dekada. We are proud of the Dekada Movement, Inc., what it stands for, what we have accomplished, and all the wonderful, caring, kind, generous, principled, just, courageous, hard-working, public spirited people who support our quest for a fairer, more just, more prosperous Commonwealth.

I also thank Mr. Cruz for his acknowledgement that current government policies and practices are leading to “the repatriation of innocent nonresident workers.”

I must confess, however, that I do not understand his suggestion that “aggression” would be appropriate if there were first “further studies and research.” Frankly, I do not think aggression would ever be a morally correct, useful or appropriate way to deal with this issue. One of the things I am proudest of is the absolute commitment to peaceful means held by Dekada and all other organizations in the core group that make up the Unity Movement.

As I understand it, Taotao Tano also firmly supports “higher minimum wages,” so I am left wondering why Mr. Cruz is suggesting that our support of the same thing is causing “nonrenewal of contracts.” Of course, we all know the minimum wage increases have little or nothing at all to do with business difficulties in the CNMI, which are principally caused by high fuel and electric costs, bad

government policies, and a poorly run government.

How can we have a “stay” on “federalization” when it has not occurred yet? To have a “stay” is to maintain status quo. How can we justify maintaining the status quo, when the status quo is so awful—so unjust, so uneconomic? How can the United States justify having different standards for aliens in the CNMI than aliens in the mainland U.S.—different rights, lesser protections, fewer remedies, different burdens, more restricted choices and opportunities?

What does it matter if there are “inconsistencies in labor abuse and human smuggling data” so long as there is labor abuse and human smuggling? Even if there were none, the dual CNMI-U.S. system would be unjustifiable for all those other reasons I just mentioned.

The CNMI economy will continue to go down the tubes so long as misguided elected alleged “leaders” are able to continue to mess around with immigration, labor, and minimum wage policy in the same manner as in the past. Only when the U.S. Congress closes the door on this nonsense will our economy turn the corner and all of us be able to prosper and enjoy life together once again.

We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from persons of all races, nationalities, and walks of life that gave expression to their values and commitment through the Unity March.

So this is our tribute to all the people of Saipan, the real voice of the islands.

**Bonifacio “Boni” Sagana**  
*President*  
*Dekada Movement*

# A time for reflection

By PATRICIA COLEMAN  
NMC-CREES

“When health is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot manifest, strength cannot fight, wealth becomes useless, and intelligence cannot be applied.”

—Herophilus

Yup, this Greek physician, Herophilus, was able to pinpoint the profundity of health in one long, compound-complex sentence. Once again, it is March, Nutrition Month. This year’s theme is “Fiber is Your Friend!” I am supposed to write about fiber and its benefits but I cannot help but reflect on all that has taken place since last year’s Nutrition Month activities. While I want to toot my own horn because of all of the impact that we have made in terms of promoting healthier lifestyles via nutrition and physical activity, I look at a sheet of paper prominently posted next to my desk and think otherwise.

- It reads:
- Why I Do The Work I Do
  - Because per capita, the CNMI has the third highest rate of Type II Diabetes in the world.
  - Because in 2002, 35 percent (122/351) of all Head Start children were diagnosed as overweight.
  - Because heart disease (as a complication of diabetes) is the number one cause of death in the CNMI.
  - Because people in their 20s and 30s are having heart attacks and strokes.
  - Because Dad has diabetes.
  - Because PREVENTION is the answer to our lifestyle-related health problems.
  - Because together, we can make a difference!

But despite the rather grim statistics listed above, the CNMI is taking steps toward better community health and nutrition. Water, fresh fruits, and vegetable dishes are now more prevalent options at community, work, and family parties and functions. The Public School System has made physical education mandatory for 60 minutes a day. More research is being done on health-related issues in the CNMI. More interventions geared toward improving diet quality and increasing physical activity are being undertaken. More collaboration is taking place between government agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups, and private citizens. And anecdotally speaking, there seems to be more awareness among the general public that lifestyle diseases, like Type II diabetes, are a major concern for the CNMI. As Herophilus implied, health affects all aspects of our lives; it is something that must be a priority year round, not just in March.

So the question becomes: What more do we need to do to reduce the incidence of lifestyle disease in the CNMI? We’d like to hear from you. If you have any ideas, please e-mail me at healthy.cnmi@yahoo.com. Your ideas will be shared with the Nutrition Month Planning Committee and other concerned groups.

Happy Nutrition Month to all! Kudos to the those who are part of promoting a healthier CNMI and to the Nutrition Month Planning Committee: Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Commonwealth Cancer Coalition, the Public School System Food and Nutrition Service, Head Start Program, Division of Environmental Quality, and the Ayuda Network, Inc. In the next few weeks, you will see more articles relating to the theme, “Fiber is Your Friend!”

# Kudos to Palms Resort Saipan!

Palms Resort Saipan’s first promo which ended last Feb. 29, 2008, was simply tempting! So off we went last weekend to experience what this hotel (which is under new management) could offer to the local market like us. I didn’t put my expectation bar too high because I’ve known Hotel Nikko in the 11 years that I’ve been here on island and believe me, after trying their Sunday Brunch once before, I promised not to go back. To my surprise, what I saw and experienced are far above my expectations. I liked the fact that when we had the Sunday Brunch this time, their head chef and the other staff were going around chatting with guests. The promo was intended to generate local business. I can see that they’re doing a great job. Fresko was full last Sunday! Most of the guests, if not all, are locals.






The best part of the whole experience was seeing how professional their staff are especially the front desk and promo managers. We had a minor issue that we mentioned to a friend who works there. The following day, I got calls from the Front Desk Manager and then today, a visit from the Senior Sales Promo Manager to personally apologize for what happened. The managers took full re-



Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼75°	▲83° ▼76°	▲82° ▼76°	▲83° ▼77°	▲83° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75

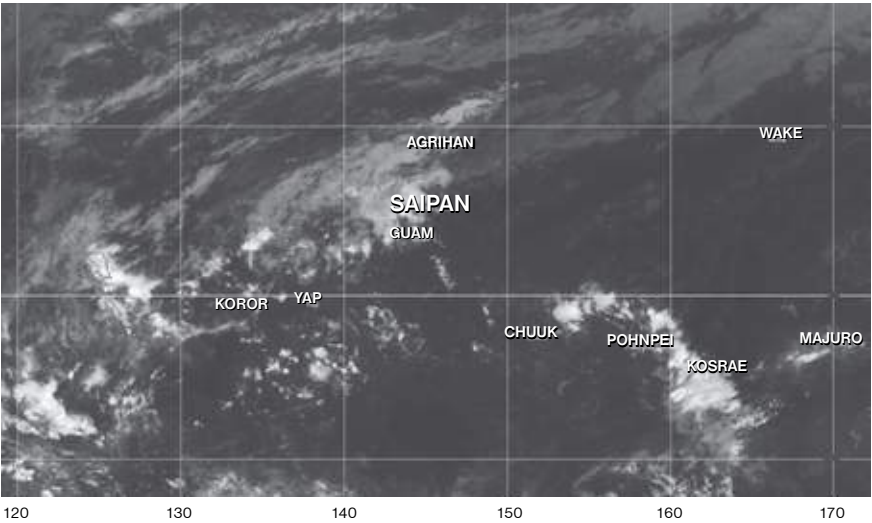
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼60
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲66 ▼43
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲75 ▼63
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼69
London	Rain	▲50 ▼37
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼54
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲93 ▼70
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼64
New York	Sunny	▲44 ▼32
Osaka	Showers	▲56 ▼40
Paris	Rain/Snow	▲43 ▼38
Pusan	Sunny	▲61 ▼40
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲56 ▼48
Salem	Rain	▲57 ▼42
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲63 ▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲55 ▼36
Tokyo	Rain	▲55 ▼40
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲50 ▼32

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
03:21AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
09:13AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
03:50PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
09:59PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2008  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25n180 to 20n160e to near Farallon de Medinilla at 16N145E to beyond 130E at 10N. Extensive cloud cover and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this feature. A surface trough reaches northward from near 5N136E to 13N137E. The northern portion of the surface trough is interacting with the shear line and is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over and west of the Marianas in an area bounded by a line from 11N135E to 16N144E to 14N144E to 11N138E back to 11N135E. Further to the south, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring southeast of Yap through east of Palau or up to 150 miles southeast of a line that runs from 5N134E to 11N141E. A weak surface trough angles northwestward from 2N162E to 8N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this feature are found within 100 miles of a line that runs from 2N164E to 10N155E. This area includes Kosrae and Pohnpei. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Majuro in an area bounded by a line from 1N175E to 3N173E to 6N176E to 5N180 back to 1N175E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28AM	6:26PM
Tuesday	6:28AM	6:27PM
Wednesday	6:27AM	6:27PM
Thursday	6:26AM	6:27PM
Friday	6:26AM	6:27PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	07:57AM	08:51PM
Tuesday	08:42AM	09:52PM
Wednesday	09:32AM	10:56PM
Thursday	10:26AM	
Friday	11:26AM	12:01AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 9, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b> CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	<b>Manila-Saipan</b> CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b> MU 590 4:20am 7:00am 2,6	<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b> MU 589 8:05pm 3:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## Letters to the Editor

# Federalization improvements, NOT impediment

Being a patriotic American, I couldn't help but to respond to the letter accusing federalization of being an impediment. Like the author, I am also well versed in theology but this is not about theology, it's about common sense and how to best serve and protect the people of the CNMI in a world that is very different from the times of the conception of the Commonwealth. The time has come for the Commonwealth to change and adapt to these changes of economic globalization and terrorism that have affected the rest of the world—we must keep pace with our ever-changing world. Change is the most powerful force in mankind's evolutionary process on this planet and you can either adapt and deal with these evolutionary social, economic and political changes or become extinct. The CNMI hasn't changed the mode of operations and governing since the conception of the CNMI over 30 years ago and now we are far behind.

I was glad to see the author promoting the idea of "one" but he fell short because he was only speaking of the Chamorros and Carolinians becoming one when everyone with common sense should know that every citizen in the CNMI, regardless of their ethnicity, will find social and economic prosperity together or we won't find it at all. The intent of making life better for only the indigenous people is called "social imperialism" and I'm sure everyone know this is not a good thing for our modern society. His message of "no to federalization" and uniting the indigenous people to fight against federalization is nothing more than Jim Crow ideology all over again that should have died with the rise and success of the civil rights movement. I'm sure the majority of people in the CNMI don't condone the ideology of segregation in any form (social, economical or political), especially when we are all stuck on the same small islands together.

As for the abuses, I wasn't here during the Trust Territory, but I have read the history and the only documented abuses I know of took place within the garment industry and in the homes of indigenous people, not among U.S.-owned corporations in the CNMI. But even if it is true about the U.S. corporations, it's not happening now and we are truly trying to move ahead. Why do we keep bringing up a past that is over 30 years old for an excuse when it has nothing

## If it weren't for the payoffs...

There are three items I would like to comment on.

After reading, almost daily, about the minimum wage, immigration (i.e. contract workers) and lost revenue because of small business closing or leaving because of the bad economy, which is due to the big companies leaving, I have this to say.

**Minimum wage:** If it weren't for the payoffs from the big companies for the past 20 years to the big officials, and outright crooks, the minimum wage might have been raised 10 or 15 cents a year, eliminating the drastic hikes that must take place now. As I remember it, the Chamber of Commerce vigorously apposed any increase in the minimum wage and has done so for the past 20 years.

**Contract workers:** If it weren't for the payoffs from the big companies for the past 20 years to the big officials, and outright crooks, the pay for workers would have enticed local workers, immigrants from the U.S. states and former Micronesians to take up most of the slack.

**Small business closings:** If it weren't for the payoffs from the small companies for the past 29 years to the big officials, and outright crooks, most of these little businesses wouldn't even be allowed to do business in the CNMI.

## NMC 'illegal hiring' comes to light

In reference to the *Variety* headline on March 7, I really don't know whom to thank for finally shedding light on the illegal hiring practices of NMC but thanks anyway. It is clear to me that until we get accurate, honest and timely responses to our questions (as presented in letters to the editor), and unless we begin doing what's right in the governance of NMC, WASC will be reluctant to renew accreditation.

No doubt the investigation of the nursing hiring will focus on the timing of events, and the persons actually involved. Who "thought up" the scheme? Who agreed to it? Whose signatures were on the necessary documents? Eventually the President's signature is on the final contract. Was Carmen Fernandez "on board" by then? Did she sign? And if not, did she immediately report her findings to appropriate parties when she learned of the wrongdoings? Or has she withheld them until now? Did others also lose their jobs over this? Was anyone protected? Please, full disclosure! More light!

I am also wondering about the efficacy of the OPA, directed by Mike Sablan, doing the investigation. Mr. Sablan is an adjunct instructor at NMC, and so is there a possible conflict of interest? Five years ago an employee of OPA taught as an adjunct for one semester, and then was told by Mr. Sablan that he would have to stop because of a possible conflict of interest. In a newspaper article recently he indicated that he would recuse himself if ever there was an investigation. Is that enough? All those who work at OPA work for Mr. Sablan. Might they feel pressured in any way to report in a way that Mr. Sablan would approve of? Just thought I'd ask. And I was also wondering if this is an investigation appropriate for OPA or the

to do with the here and now and we can't do anything about the events and days that have gone by. Stop living in the past and live for tomorrow because you are beating a dead horse.

It is totally insane or ignorant for anyone to even think the feds is trying to purposely harm the CNMI. And it would really be insane to think the feds don't know what they are doing, especially when they have more than 200 years of experience and the CNMI has only 30 in governing. How soon we forget who saved the indigenous people and gave the people of the CNMI the right of "self determination" for the first time in over 400 years. The people chose to be Americans and there is no such thing as a "semi or unique American." But now, distrust, rebuke and even scorn is the thanks being given to the very nation the people of the CNMI begged to join!

Federalization will NOT make the people of the CNMI slaves to federal grants. Federalization in the simplest term means that federal law will dictate our immigrations and wages, nothing more, and for good and legitimate reasons because our government didn't do what was necessary and proper. As for being slaves to federal grants, the CNMI has received over \$2 billion since its conception and I would hate to imagine how the CNMI would look and be like without the \$2 billion that has already been given and the millions that will be needed in the future from the federal government. Every state and territory of America is "dependent" on federal grants, which are designed to improve the social and economic welfare of the people throughout all of America and not to enslave them.

The 22 percent of people who were against the Covenant and union with America still haven't gone away or respected the decision of the people some 30 years ago and they are still promoting an ideology and attitude that is outdated and has become one of the biggest inhibitors to our progress toward reaching federal standards. The author of the letter against federalization chose to seek the "good life" on the mainland and may even own land there but he still talks about the Feds and their actions in the CNMI, which is really hypocritical and that's not so good coming from a person with a theological background.

Any indigenous person living on the mainland reaping a higher

I have yet to see a survey by the public auditor that shows the total number of small foreign, and locally fronted foreign business' there are on island out of the total number of business licenses issued last year, their gross revenue and their gross taxes paid to the CNMI.

Could it be that they constitute 60-70 percent of all licenses and contribute 3-4 percent of the tax revenue?

What about public services used by these "businesses"? Medical services, education, public safety, public works, power and water, legal services? All of these services are "subsidized by the people of the CNMI."

Anyone who lived on Saipan through the heady '80s knows who the big shots and outright crooks were. Some have died but most are still working for our government or are private consultants. The crybabies crying the loudest are the ones that screwed the little people of the CNMI the most and the ones that 20 years ago could have made Saipan the envy of Guam today.

**Gary DuBrall**  
via e-mail

AG's office? By the way, I have the utmost respect for Mike Sablan and the excellent work he does on the behalf of the CNMI.

Rather quietly, I recently became aware of the hiring of Tee Abrams as Dean of Community Programs and Services. As I recall, that position was previously advertised some time ago and all of the contending candidates were interviewed (including Ms. Abrams), and Mr. Eric Plinske was the eventual choice of the interviewing committee. And just before his contract was to be signed, the position was put on hold for financial reasons. Might be a good idea to look into how the process was conducted that has lead to the hiring of Ms. Abrams. Was Mr. Plinske offered the job? Was the position re-advertised? Was a new committee established to conduct the hiring process? Were candidates interviewed? In summary, was it a legal hiring, that adhered to proper procedures? Perhaps this, too, might require an investigation?

Lest anyone become critical of these questions, it is all about transparency, honesty and a sense of fair play. I am confident that WASC absolutely requires this, and we owe it to them and ourselves to be above any reproach. The very nature of the job of a college is to teach, foster and adhere to the highest of ideals of the community in which it operates. Let's admit our mistakes, correct ourselves, and begin to "get it right." Now is the time for open, transparent, honest, and intelligent leadership and governance.

**Perry Conner**  
As Matuis, Saipan

quality of life should never complain about the CNMI's relationship with the federal government when they are reaping the benefits and quality of life driven by federal law on the mainland and we are trying to create the same quality of life in the CNMI. You would think the indigenous people on the mainland would be promoting federalization because it's really common sense we need to work together as part of the Union. The Legislature can go on and create the political status commission to change the political status that is being discussed on Capital Hill and people can keep on talking about fighting with the feds but remember, the confederacy already tried and failed. The best thing the Legislature can do for the people of the CNMI is to put the federalization issue to a vote to end this back and forth madness over federalization.

**Ambrose M. Bennett**  
Kagman, Saipan

## No to federalization!

The *Variety* has asked for everyone's opinion on federalization, and I suppose the *Tribune* wouldn't mind hearing it as well. My own view on the subject is summed up perfectly in a quotation I recently ran across, from President Roosevelt's speech dedicating the Jefferson Memorial in 1943. He said: "Thomas Jefferson believed, as we believe, in man. He believed, as we believe, that men are capable of their own government and that no king, no tyrant, no dictator can govern them as wisely as they can govern for themselves."

I believe this as well. I believe, furthermore, that it applies with full force to the men and women of these islands. I also believe that the U.S. forces who occupied these islands, under President Roosevelt's command only a year after this speech was made, did so for the ultimate purpose that the great principles that he enunciated would be established here.

Some, I suppose, will object that President Roosevelt also instituted sweeping labor reforms. Indeed he did. However, he did not do so by fiat (and could not if he had wanted to). He did it consistently with his democratic principles as stated above – by convincing the people to support the reforms. If equally sweeping reforms are to be instituted here, the people of these islands have no less right to demand that they first be convinced of their wisdom, and freely assent to them.

The federalization bill has no place for these principles. On the contrary, it is based on the opposite belief—that the people of the CNMI are NOT capable of their own government, and that a junta of dictators—the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of State, and the United States Attorney General—can govern them more wisely than they can govern for themselves.

I disagree with that presumption, and adhere instead to the views of Roosevelt and Jefferson, which I take to be the principles upon which both the United States and the CNMI were founded.

I therefore oppose federalization.

**Jed Horey**  
As Matuis, Saipan

## Quit making promises that can't be fulfilled

The retroactive pay was promised to some individuals who are expecting their pay. This is a law and there should be actions made to this matter. When promises are made, there should be a full guarantee of having it accomplished. However, if this retroactive pay is a law, then why can't it be fulfilled? I believe that Saipan got their share, and so did Tinian. Why can't Rota get their pay? We are in the year 2008 and this issue was voiced out last year. This can be helpful to the individuals who are expecting their retroactive. It can help them with their financial obligations. This is part of the economy, isn't it? There can't be delays on this problem. It is enough that there are so many problems occurring day by day with the economy. How many elections have passed and this issue was always made a promise, just so that the candidates who are running would be elected? Promises can't be broken because when promises are made, it should be fulfilled. Whoever made this issue a promise, think it over and do something about it because life is not a game and so are promises.

**Abigail Manglona**  
Yona, Guam

## KUDOS

From Page 11

sponsibility for what happened and promised to correct and improve their system so there will

be no mistake in the future.

Kudos to the management and staff! I'd be happy to put out a good word about your hotel.

**Irene N. Tantiado**  
Capital Hill, Saipan



# Business

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Chrysler closing Calif design studio

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Chrysler LLC says it is closing its advanced design studio in California as part of a companywide consolidation. Chrysler says work from the studio in Carlsbad, Calif., will be moved to its headquarters city of Auburn Hills, Mich. About 20 Carlsbad employees are affected by the closing that was announced Friday. Design chief Trevor Creed will continue to lead Chrysler's design efforts. Chrysler has been restructuring since private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management LP bought a majority stake in the company last summer.

### Company in fraud case stays in business

CINCINNATI (AP)—A company that sells "male enhancement" tablets and other herbal supplements can remain in business while its top executive awaits sentencing on fraud and money laundering charges, a federal judge said. Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals will be allowed to hire an offshore company to process its credit card transactions, according to a plan approved Friday by U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel. Domestic processing companies had refused to work with Berkeley after founder and president Steve Warshak was convicted in January. Spiegel agreed to let Berkeley contract with Germany-based B+S Card Service GmbH but barred Berkeley from transferring money overseas. Prosecutors opposed the move, arguing that any offshore transactions would be difficult to monitor. Assistant U.S. Attorney Anne Porter said neither Warshak nor any Berkeley officials should be trusted to keep assets in the United States. Warshak, 40, faces more than 20 years in prison. A jury found him guilty of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, bank fraud and money laundering.

### Volunteers help warm New England homes

BANGOR, Maine (AP)—While many get help from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the average LI-HEAP benefit of \$750 isn't enough to fill the standard oil tank at today's prices. That's why volunteer efforts like the Rev. Gerald Oleson's Sunny Corner Fuel Assistance have sprung up to provide emergency help to those who fall through the cracks. Maine, where four out of five households heat with oil, is making an unprecedented push to raise private money this winter to help the tens of thousands who walk a financial tightrope in order to balance heating expenses with the costs of other necessities like food and medicine. Stepped-up efforts are also under way elsewhere in New England. The nonprofit Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance expects to extend \$320,000 in assistance this winter through its Oil Bank program. Central Vermont Public Service Co., the state's largest utility, has enlisted businesses to join in its heating assistance program, which has thus far parceled out about \$150,000.

## Dangerous cracks seen appearing in job market

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dangerous cracks in the nation's job market are deepening. Employers slashed jobs by the largest amount in five years and hundreds of thousands of people dropped out of the labor force—ominous signs that the country is falling toward a recession or has already toppled into one.

For the second straight month, nervous employers got rid of jobs nationwide. In February, they sliced payrolls by 63,000, even deeper than the 22,000 cut in January, the Labor Department reported Friday.

The grim snapshot of the country's employment climate underscored the heavy toll the housing and credit debacles are taking on companies, jobseekers and the economy as a whole.

"It sounds like the recession bell is ringing for the U.S. economy, although it is still faint," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group.

On Wall Street, stocks tumbled. The Dow Jones lost 146.70 points, a little more than

1 percent to close at 11,893.69. The Dow was down 370 for the last two days of the week.

The worsening situation will prompt the Federal Reserve to cut a key interest rate deeply—perhaps by as much as three-quarters of a percentage point—at its next meeting March 18, or possibly sooner, to help brace the teetering economy, analysts predicted.

The shower of pink slips was widespread. Factories, construction companies, mortgage brokers, real-estate firms, retailers, temporary-help firms, child day-care providers, hotels, educational services, accounting firms and computer designers were among those shedding jobs. All those cuts swamped job gains at hospitals and other health care sites, bars and restaurants, legal services and the government.

"Losing a job is painful, and I know Americans are concerned about our economy; so am I," said President Bush. "It's clear our economy has slowed."

## Oil rally may be economy's undoing

NEW YORK (AP)—Preoccupied the last few months with shrinking credit and a slumping economy, Wall Street has all but ignored the relentless rise in oil prices that has taken a barrel of crude to a once-unthinkable \$106.

But the market may not be able to look the other way much longer—especially when consumers, already hurting from the soaring cost of gasoline, find themselves paying even more to fill their tanks come spring.

"Investors are just getting used to higher oil prices in what has really been a stealth rally," said Peter Dunay, chief investment strategist with Meridian Equity Partners.

He said lofty oil prices "should be getting lots of attention" by Wall Street. But, investors have instead been distracted by a nearly endless stream of bad news about the economy - from banks taking steep write-downs for soured mortgages to the loss of tens of thousands of jobs.

To be sure, there is a lot for Wall Street to worry about these days. Major stock indexes have slid by double digits since the start of the year as economists fear the economy might already be in a recession. And, the summer's



The price of unleaded super gasoline is \$4.019 at a Valero gas station in Los Angeles March 7, 2008. AP

subprime mortgage collapse continues to threaten financial institutions around the world.

Although there certainly were many days last year that Wall Street tumbled in response to the punishing march in oil prices, the advance toward \$100 a barrel at 2007's end and the surpassing of that milestone this year might actually have been welcomed by some investors. Institutions have been piling into crude - along with other commodities - to flee not just sagging stocks but also the flailing U.S. dollar.

The greenback's fall against other major currencies has helped drive buying across commodities as investors overseas view dollar-denominated assets as relatively cheap. Meanwhile, big institutional investors have used hard assets like oil as a hedge against inflation.

On Friday, oil prices jumped to a new record above \$106 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. At the pump, gas prices are 68 cents higher than a year ago, and within a nickel of last May's record price of \$3.227 a gallon. And they can only go higher as the summer driving season, which always sends gas climbing, arrives.

## GAO asked to audit Iraqi oil revenue

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Democratic chairman and Republican former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee have asked government auditors to determine what Iraq is doing with the billions of dollars in oil revenue it generates.

"We believe that it has been overwhelmingly U.S. taxpayer money that has funded Iraq reconstruction over the last five years, despite Iraq earnings billions of dollars in oil revenue over that time period that have ended up in non-Iraqi banks,"

Sens. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and John Warner, R-Va., said Friday in a letter to the head of the Government Accountability Office.

"At the same time, our conversations with both Iraqis and Americans during our frequent visits to Iraq, as well as official government and unofficial media reports, have convinced us that the Iraqi government is not doing nearly enough to provide essential services and improve the quality of life of its citizens," they said.

The senators estimated that Iraq will realize "at least \$100

billion in oil revenues in 2007 and 2008."

They asked specifically that the GAO determine:

■ Estimated oil revenues from 2003-2007.

■ How much the U.S. and Iraq each have spent annually during that period on training, equipping and supporting Iraqi security forces as well as reconstruction, governance and economic development.

■ Projected oil revenue and spending for 2008.

■ The amount of unspent

revenue from 2003 to 2007 and the expected estimate at the end of 2008.

■ How much money the Iraqi government has deposited and in which banks.

■ Why the Iraq government has not spent more of its oil revenue on its own country.

The GAO concluded in a January report that the Bush administration used questionable financial data to assert that the Baghdad government was making progress in managing its budget.

## Angry Boeing supporters target McCain

WASHINGTON (AP)—Angry Boeing supporters are vowing revenge against Republican presidential candidate John McCain over Chicago-based Boeing's loss of a \$35 billion Air Force tanker contract to the parent company of European plane maker Airbus.

There are other targets for their ire—the Air Force, the defense secretary and even the entire Bush administration.

But Boeing supporters in Congress are directing their wrath at McCain, the Arizona senator and nominee in waiting, for scuttling an earlier deal that would have let Boeing build the next generation of Air Force refueling tankers. Boeing now will miss out on a deal that it says would have supported 44,000 new and existing jobs at the company and suppliers in 40 states.

"I hope the voters of this state remem-



Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., speaks with reporters during a campaign stop in Atlanta, Ga. Friday, March 7, 2008. AP

ber what John McCain has done to them and their jobs," said Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., whose state would have been home to the tanker program and gained about 9,000 jobs.

"Having made sure that Iraq gets new

schools, roads, bridges and dams that we deny America, now we are making sure that France gets the jobs that Americans used to have," said Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill. "We are sending the jobs overseas, all because John McCain demanded it."



# Nation

## Obama wins Wyoming, pads delegate lead

CASPER, Wyo. (AP)—Sen. Barack Obama captured the Wyoming Democratic caucuses Saturday, seizing a bit of momentum in the close, hard-fought race with rival Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for the party's presidential nomination.

Obama generally has outperformed Clinton in caucuses, which reward organization and voter passion more than do primaries. The Illinois senator has now won 13 caucuses to Clinton's three.

Obama has also shown strength in the Mountain West, winning Idaho, Utah, Colorado and now Wyoming. The two split Nevada, with Clinton winning the popular vote and Obama more delegates.

But Clinton threw some ef-

fort into Wyoming, perhaps hoping for an upset that would yield few delegates but considerable buzz and momentum. The New York senator campaigned Friday in Cheyenne and Casper. Former President Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, also campaigned this week in the sprawling and lightly populated state.

Obama campaigned in Casper and Laramie on Friday, but spent part of his time dealing with the fallout from an aide's harsh words about Clinton and suggestions that Obama wouldn't move as quickly to withdraw U.S. forces

from Iraq if elected. In Casper, Obama said Clinton had no standing to challenge his position on the war because she had voted to authorize it in 2002.



Obama

Clinton, buoyed by big wins in Ohio and Texas last Tuesday, said she faced an uphill fight in Wyoming. Her campaign also holds out little hope for Tuesday's primary in Mississippi, which has a large black popula-

tion. Obama had 61 percent, or 5,378 votes, to Clinton's 38 percent, or 3,312 votes, with all 23 Wyoming counties reporting.

Obama won seven delegates and Clinton won five. In the overall race for the nomination, Obama led 1,578-1,468, according to the latest tally by The Associated Press. It will take 2,025 delegates to win the Democratic nomination.

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe said the Wyoming victory speaks to the candidate's strength in the West, and that Obama is better suited to help down-ticket Democrats even in states that traditionally vote Republican in the general election.

"I think it's evidence that Senator Obama is going to be able to put more states in play because of his strength with independent voters," Plouffe said.

## Brother charged with killing six in Tenn.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) -- A convicted killer recently released from prison was charged Saturday with fatally shooting his brother during an argument and then killing five witnesses, including two of his brother's children, police said.



Dotson

attack last Sunday, but one of them was able to tell investigators about their assailant, an arrest warrant affidavit said.

Jessie L. Dotson, 33, was arrested on Friday - five days after the six bodies were

called Binghampton. The affidavit said Dotson admitted to the killings.

"He tried to kill everyone in the house. He thought everyone in the house was dead," police Lt. Joe Scott said.

Dotson was charged with six counts of first-degree murder and three counts of attempted first-degree murder, police said. Among those killed was Dotson's brother, Cecil, 30, who was the father of all the chil-

dren, ages 9 to 2 months.

Also killed were Hollis Seals, 33, Shindri Roberson, 25, and Marissa Rene Williams, 26, the mother of four of Cecil Dotson's children. Police identified the dead children as Cemario Dotson, 4, and Cecil Dotson, 2.

The surviving children remain under police custody at a children's hospital, but police declined to reveal their identities or their conditions.

## Heavy snow buries large parts of Ohio, Indiana



From left, Cassie Gieger, 13, Claire Pomorski, 12, Erin Estes, 13, Elizabeth Nawrocki, 14, and Nate Estes, 12, slide down a hill at Frontier Park in Erie, Pa., Saturday, March 8, 2008.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) -- A heavy winter storm walloped Ohio's capital city with more than 20 inches of snow, while blizzard conditions shut down highways and stranded air travelers across the state and parts of Indiana on Saturday.

High winds whipped the snow into 3-foot-tall drifts in some places and cut visibility to less than a quarter mile, the National Weather Service said. Heavy rain and severe weather hit the East Coast.

"It's horrible out there right now," said 58-year-old Carman Bonfiglio, a FedEx Corp. driver

who was stranded at a truck stop in Sunbury, about 20 miles northeast of Columbus. "Trucks are just spinning right here. In my days of driving I've never seen anything like it."

The storm, which rolled in Friday, dumped 20.4 inches of snow on Columbus, breaking the city's previous record of 15.3 inches set in February 1910, the weather service said. Cincinnati and Cleveland also received about a foot of snow.

State officials urged motorists to avoid the roads. At least nine counties closed roads to non-emergency traffic, meaning that

anyone caught driving was subject to arrest unless they were involved in an emergency.

In Indiana, 14 inches of snow fell in Milan, which is about 60 miles southeast of Indianapolis, said the weather service said.

Roads were impassable, prompting the county to declare a local emergency banning all vehicles except for emergency vehicles from the roads, authorities said.

"The winds are starting to pick up now, so we expect some of them to be pretty treacherous," Ripley County sheriff's Deputy Brian May-

nard said of the roads.

It was a continuation of the storm that on Friday piled up snow a foot deep in Arkansas and blacked out thousands of homes and businesses from that state to the Great Lakes. Louisville, Ky., and parts of Tennessee got up to a foot, while northern Mississippi got 5 to 7 inches of snow, the weather service said.

Secondary roads and bridges were snow-covered and icy in Tennessee and Kentucky on Saturday morning, but much of that had melted by the afternoon when temperatures climbed into the upper 30s.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Va. targets adults who French kiss kids

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- State legislators passed a law Saturday that would require adults who French kiss a child younger than 13 to register as a sex offender. Those convicted of tongue-kissing a child would be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$2,500 fine. The House of Delegates passed the legislation 96-1 and the Senate 39-0. The bill now heads to Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, who said he supports the legislation. Delegate Riley Ingram, R-Hopewell, introduced the bill on behalf of a woman whose 10-year-old daughter was French-kissed by the 62-year-old husband of her babysitter. The only crime prosecutors could charge the man with was contributing to the delinquency of a minor, which did not require that he register as a sex offender.

#### Democrats criticize Bush's CIA-bill veto

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats and human rights advocates criticized President Bush's veto Saturday of a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists. Bush said such tactics have helped foil terrorist plots. His critics likened some methods to torture and said they sullied America's reputation around the world. "This president had the chance to end the torture debate for good, yet he chose instead to leave the door open to use torture in the future," said Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee. She said Bush ignored the advice of 43 retired generals and admirals and 18 national security experts, including former secretaries of state and national security advisers, who supported the bill.

#### Fla. mom charged with hosing child

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) -- Authorities have arrested a mother who was videotaped spraying her young daughter with a high-pressure water hose at a Florida car wash. Deputies arrested Niurka Ramirez in Orlando on Friday on a child abuse charge. Ramirez says she was trying to discipline her 2-year-old daughter for throwing a temper tantrum. She told authorities she did not use the high-pressure feature on the hose when spraying the child. A nurse reported the girl had no visible injuries 11 days after the incident. Ramirez was released from jail early Saturday on \$1,000 bail. Jail records do not list an attorney.

#### Democrat wins Hastert's seat in Illinois

CHICAGO (AP) -- A longtime Republican district fell to the Democrats Saturday when a wealthy businessman and scientist snatched former House Speaker Dennis Hastert's congressional seat in a closely watched special election. Democrat Bill Foster won 53 percent of the vote compared to 47 percent for Republican Jim Oberweis. With all 568 precincts reporting, Foster had 52,010 votes to Oberweis' 46,988. Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Chris Van Hollen said Foster's win is a rebuke of the Bush administration and of the GOP's apparent presidential nominee, John McCain, who helped raise money for Oberweis.

## Man charged in Auburn U. student shooting death

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) -- A man arrested after a car and foot chase by police who suspected him in a string of robberies was charged with capital murder in the abduction and shooting death of an Auburn University freshman, police said Saturday.

Courtney Lockhart was arrested Friday in Phenix City, about 30 miles from the campus. Lauren Burk, 18, was found shot on the side of an off-campus road Tuesday night and her car was found burning in a campus parking lot.

Police would not say what led them to charge Lockhart, 23, in her killing or divulge evidence linking them.

On Saturday in Burk's hometown of Marietta, Ga., hundreds gathered at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church to mourn her death and remember the Delta Gamma sorority girl with twinkling eyes

and a broad, beaming smile.

"As students, I know it's easy to feel a bit invincible, but you're not," said the Rev. Bryant Wright, pastor of the church. "This is a reminder of how vulnerable we all can be in a world of evil."

Several of those closest to her spoke during the service, including her boyfriend of two years.

"That smile of hers could light up even the darkest of places," said Sean McQuade, who attended Auburn with her. "Her happiness was infectious. She lived her life with radiance and joy."

"She was the most amazing person I ever met and she changed me in more ways than I could ever describe," he said.

Lockhart, 23, was charged with three capital counts accusing him of murder along with kidnapping, robbery and attempted rape, Auburn Assistant Police Chief Thomas Dawson said.



# Asia

## Indian's confession disconcerts Pakistan

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—After his release from 35 years in a Pakistani prison on espionage charges, Kashmir Singh stood at the Indian border and hugged the Pakistani Cabinet minister responsible for freeing him.

The official thought he was embracing an Indian electronics salesman who entered Pakistan without a passport on a business trip and got swept up in the suspicions and enmity that have characterized the rivals' relations for 60 years.

But three days after walking across the border to a hero's welcome, Singh told Indian reporters Friday: "I did the duty assigned to me as a spy ... I was a regular recruit. I did not open my mouth for 35 years in Pakistan."

The confession turned what was meant to be a humanitarian gesture into an international embarrassment for the Pakistani government that could imperil hundreds of prisoners on both sides held in similar circumstances.



In this file photograph dated Tuesday, March 4, 2008, shown is Kashmir Singh, right, posing for photographs with his wife Paramjit Kaur, after crossing border into India at the India-Pakistan joint border check post, at Wagah, India.

## Malaysia's ruling party suffers losses

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—Malaysia's ruling coalition on Saturday suffered its biggest electoral upset ever, losing control of four state governments and more than one-third of parliament in a show of frustration over racial tensions, crime and corruption.

It was a humiliating outcome for the National Front coalition, which has governed Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957, and raised ques-

tions about the political future of Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

At the federal level, the coalition failed to win a two-thirds majority in the 222-seat Parliament for the first time since 1969. Instead it had to be satisfied with a simple majority, winning 139 of the 220 seats for which results had been announced by the Election Commission.

Even if it wins the remaining two seats it would fall

short of the 148 needed for a two-thirds majority.

It was a stunning reversal of fortunes for Abdullah, who had led the Front to its best ever result in the last elections in 2004, winning 91 percent of the parliamentary seats and 12 of Malaysia's 13 states.

"As of now we have obtained a simple majority," said Abdullah, looking grim as he addressed reporters with his wife, Jeanne, and deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak by his side.

ties he said he did not want to specify. Police then let him go with a warning, he said. "They asked me not to speak to the media about it," said Teng, speaking by telephone from his Beijing home. One of a coterie of young activist lawyers, Teng is well known in Chinese and overseas legal and human rights circles. He has defended other activists and worked for constitutional reform.

### UN Myanmar envoy meets Suu Kyi

**YANGON, Myanmar (AP)**—The U.N. special envoy to promote political reconciliation in Myanmar met Aung San Suu Kyi and other opposition party members Saturday, a day after being rebuffed by the country's military rulers. Suu Kyi, who has been detained without trial for 12 of the past 18 years, was seen being driven from the residence where she is held under house arrest to the state guest house where Ibrahim Gambari, representing U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, was scheduled to hold talks with Suu Kyi, but de-

tails of their meeting were likely to be closely held. The U.N. envoy earlier held talks with representatives of ethnic groups, non-governmental organizations and several political parties including executives of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party.

### Beijing tries to ease Olympic discomfort

**BEIJING (AP)** -- Beijing will compensate car owners barred from driving on city streets during the Olympics and will not totally ban migrants, state media reported Saturday, in signs the government wants to take some of the sting out of restrictions planned for the August games. The government is working on a compensation scheme for car owners during the Games when private cars will be restricted to driving every other day, newspapers and television reports said, citing remarks by Vice Mayor Ji Lin. Ji acknowledged that the city was tightening controls on the swarms of rural migrants in China's capital by stepping up inspections of the permits residents are supposed to have.

# World

## Mass grave found in Baghdad

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—A mass grave containing about 100 bodies was discovered Saturday in a region north of Baghdad that has seen years of intense fighting between Shiites and Sunni extremist members of al-Qaida in Iraq.

The grisly discovery came as Iraq's Sunni parliament speaker called on the nation's Shiites and Kurds to work together with the minority he represents to pass an election law that would help reconcile Iraq's often warring sects and

splinter groups.

The grave, near Khalis in the Diyala province about 50 miles north of Baghdad, is still being investigated, but the U.S. military said the skeletal remains appear to have been there for a long time.

It was not immediately clear how the people had died, the military said.

Police Col. Sabah al-Ambari said the grave was discovered in an orchard near al-Bu Tumaa, a Sunni village outside Khalis. He said au-

thorities including both Iraqi and U.S. forces were conducting a search when they uncovered the site.

Khalis is a Shiite town surrounded by Sunni communities and has been the scene of repeated sectarian attacks. Al-Qaida in Iraq is active in the area, which has seen hundreds of kidnapping and mass abductions in past years.

Police in Diyala reported two separate bombings Saturday in which six people were killed.

## Serbia's government collapses

**BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)**—Serbia's government collapsed Saturday over an impasse between the nationalist prime minister and the pro-Western president on how Kosovo's independence affects the Balkan country's pursuit of EU membership.

"The government, which does not have united policies, cannot function," Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica said as he announced the fall of his Cabinet. "That's

the end of the government."

Kostunica said he will convene a session of the caretaker government Monday, which will propose to President Boris Tadic to dissolve the Parliament and call new elections for May 11.

Tadic said in a statement that he will call early elections because they are a "democratic way to overcome the political crisis."

But he disputed Kostunica's claim that their clash was over



Kostunica

Kosovo, the Serbian medieval heartland which proclaimed independence last month with the backing of the United States and several EU countries.

"Kosovo is of course an integral part of our country," Tadic said.

"I believe the issue is that the Serbian government does not have a united position over European and economic perspectives of Serbia and its citizens," he added.

Kostunica said the government "will function in a reduced capacity until the elections are held."

## 78 hurt in Colombia soccer brawl

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)**—A stadium brawl at a soccer rivalry game left about 80 people wounded in the Colombian city of Cali late Saturday, 18 of them with stab wounds, emergency officials said.

Clashes broke out among America de Cali's "Red Baron" fan club in the 82nd minute of the match with Deportivo de Cali and spread onto the field and around the Pascual Guerrero stadium.

Police fired tear gas as the

brawlers lit firecrackers and tried to tear down fencing separating the stands from the field.

Eighteen people were stabbed during the melee, said Manuel Infante, spokesman for Cali's Emergency Prevention Committee. They were treated at the stadium and taken to a local hospital. Another 60 suffered bruises and other minor injuries.

A young pregnant woman and three police officers were among the wounded,

the Red Cross said.

Tensions flared over referee Wilman Roldan's decision not to call a penalty kick against Cali. America protested the no-call, players traded blows on the field and America coach Diego Edison Umana got into the fray, elbowing his Cali counterpart Daniel Carreno.

Cali Mayor Jorge Ivan Ospina called Umana "directly responsible" for the violence and said the stadium's stands would be closed temporarily.

## Rebel's slaying another boost for Uribe

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)**—The guerrilla walked out of the jungle tired, hungry and bearing the dismembered hand of his slain commander.

The rebel, known simply as Rojas, said the Colombian troops were closing in on his guerrilla column and he wanted out of the fight. But the rebels shoot deserters - so instead he murdered his commander and fled, lopping

off the dead man's right hand to present to the army.

"I did it to save my life," Rojas told a press conference Saturday in the western city of Pereira. "Because if you're going to desert, they'll shoot you."

The morbid delivery represented an unexpected gift for President Alvaro Uribe: the death of the second top Revolutionary Armed Forces of

Colombia, or FARC, leader in a week, and a severe blow to the rebel group's four-decade-long insurgency.

The slaying of Ivan Rios, leader of the FARC's central region, came less than a week after Colombian troops crossed the border into Ecuador on March 1 and killed senior rebel commander Raul Reyes and 24 others.

## Britain honors sailors killed in WWII

**LONDON (AP)**—Britain's Royal Navy floated a wreath Saturday over the recently discovered wreck of a World War II destroyer that went down with 110 men on board in a battle with Nazi forces.

The HMS Hunter was discovered this month by a Norwegian

minehunter participating in exercises with British, Dutch and other NATO warships off the Norwegian coast, Britain's Defense Ministry said.

The 2,100-ton destroyer went down on April 10, 1940, as the Royal Navy tried to keep German forces from overrunning

the strategic Norwegian port.

About 1,000 British, Norwegian and Dutch military officials honored the ship's dead during a ceremony which featured ships sailing past the site of the sunken destroyer in a line and a wreath being floated above the wreck.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Thai court keeps arms dealer in custody

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)**—Thai police received court permission Saturday to retain custody of a reputed Russian arms dealer dubbed the "Merchant of Death" who was arrested in a U.S.-led sting operation that lured him from his home in Moscow. Viktor Bout, 41, was arrested Thursday at a luxury hotel in Bangkok and held on suspicion of engaging with and supporting terrorist groups. The Bangkok Criminal Court authorized his continued detention while an investigation continues. Suspects may be held for up to 84 days without being formally charged for trial.

#### Chinese police release activist lawyer

**BEIJING (AP)** -- Chinese police released a noted civil rights lawyer Saturday, but he said they warned him to keep quiet about his more than 40 hours in custody. Beijing police questioned Teng Biao about essays he wrote and other activi-



## Health & Fitness

# Our guide to buying the right athletic shoe

By **VICKY HALLETT**  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

This is a story about running shoes, and not just any pair will do, because finding the right running shoe is something of an art.

Or “a science and a feel,” according to Warren Greene, the brand editor of *Runner's World*, who is charged with organizing the magazine's exhaustive annual shoe guides.

The science part begins with the shape of the arch of your foot, which anyone can determine at home with this quickie experiment: Dunk your foot in water and then place it on a brown paper bag. If you see a “C” shape on the paper when you remove your foot, you have a rare high arch, which suggests you're an under-pronator. If the shape looks more like a rectangle, that means you have flat feet and are likely an over-pronator. See something in between? That's a normal arch, which usually translates into some pronating but not a whole lot.

Pronation isn't as sinister as it sounds—it's merely the flattening of the arch as you move through your step, which makes your foot roll inward. “There should be a degree of that occurring,” explains James Christina, a podiatrist who serves as director of scientific affairs at the American Podiatric Medical Association. “Pronating loosens up the structures in the foot and allows it to adapt to changes in the ground. But if it happens excessively, you have problems.” Think shin splints and tendinitis.

Of course, under-pronation (also called—get ready for it—supination) comes with its own host of maladies because your foot doesn't absorb shock effectively. Without proper cushioning, that's a recipe for stress fractures and knee and hip issues.

Luckily for runners, shoe technology has come a long way since Ed Grant, president of the D.C. Road Runners, trained in Converse shoes and the like in the 1970s. “What was available back then, you wouldn't use as walking shoes today. A piece of rubber with a vinyl top, no arch support, no cushioning,” he recalls. Now, manufacturers focus on foot biomechanics and devote extensive resources to designing products that can cor-

rect practically anyone's stride.

Companies typically classify their shoes in three categories: neutral (for high arches), stability (for normal or low arches)

lasts are slightly different, which is why some people detest a certain manufacturer's shoes while others are completely devoted to that brand.

fast, but if you keep losing your toenails, they should know that,” he says.

And take your current shoes with you. Don't wait till you can

once a bargain-rack shopper, says you're a fool to focus too heavily on price. “If your feet aren't in the right shoe, that'll hurt your experience,” he says. And besides, he points out, they're the only equipment you really need to participate in the sport.

The question becomes how much do you spend, and for what. Most shoes hover around \$90, although certain pairs sell for twice that—usually because they're packed with more innovations. But someone's got to pay for advertising, too.

Reading about a shoe's construction can feel a bit like parsing a foreign language, what with all the references to proprietary materials. Brooks boasts that one of its newest shoes, the Infiniti, has the ultimate cushy forefoot because its trademark MoGo compound is

sandwiched around a layer of something called e-Fusion. Adidas's adiStar Cushion 6 comes with ForMotion plates that keep the heel steady on uneven surfaces, plus a GeoFit heel and an abundance of adiPRENE. And on and on.

Greene says the advances worth springing for are the ones that improve your run.

What's most likely to feel different from one pair to another is the type of cushioning. Each brand has its own technology, be it gel, foam, air or wave. Even though *Runner's World* puts hundreds of runners in shoes in its own advanced testing lab to gauge wear, Greene isn't about to declare one technology the ultimate champ. “Take (Nike's) Zoom Air. Some people love that firm feeling, while other people want a softer shoe,” he says.

While *Runner's World* singles out some shoes as “Best Buy” and “Best Update,” picking shoes on that basis alone is ill-advised. “People always ask me what's the best shoe,” Greene says. “I tell them that I don't know. I'm running in what are the best shoes for me.”



A guide to buying the right athletic shoe and the left one, too. Vicky Hallett likes the Mizuno Wave Inspire 4.

and motion control (for flat arches). Conveniently for shoppers, that's also how specialty running stores tend to divvy up their inventory, and even if you haven't done the paper-bag test at home, staffers there can analyze your gait to steer you to the right part of the wall. (At larger sporting goods stores, you're likely to be on your own.)

At that point, most people would just grab an appealing shoe and try it on. But pros first like to conduct a series of quality-control tests. Christina sets his pair on a flat surface so he can look for differences in alignment between the right and left shoe. (Yes, these can occur even in premium shoes.) “One shouldn't look like it's tilted in a different way,” he notes.

Pribut has a three-phase sequence for checking stability: First, he bends the shoe toe to heel to see where it flexes. If it's not at the forefoot—where the foot actually bends—be afraid. He then grips both ends and twists in opposite directions. If he can wring it like a towel, that means there's zero support. Finally, he squeezes the heel in both directions right above the midsole. A stable heel won't cave in.

Even if a few pass these tests, there's a lot more hunt ahead to find the right fit.

It all starts with the “last,” the mold that shapes the inside of the shoe: whether it's wide or narrow in the midfoot, how it sits on the heel and how roomy the toe box is. Each company's

“It's not a fashion show when you're running,” reminds Yasso of *Runner's World*. You want the heel securely in place. You don't want to be squished in so that either the inside or outside of the foot feels like it's protruding. Anything that's rubbing, or even just feels off, is a sign to slip into another pair.

It's wise to hold off until the afternoon to make your purchase, to allow for any swelling that your feet do throughout the day. Toes also dictate sizing choice: The rule is you need a finger's width from your longest toe (whether that's your big one or not) to the end of the shoe.

In addition, the fact that running shoes have a tendency to run small may mean the right size is as much as a whole size larger than what you'd opt for in a dress shoe.

That somehow tends to be easier for men to swallow. “For some women, it's hard to get over wearing a size 10,” says Howard Osterman, a podiatrist with offices in the Washington area. They manage, however, when he tells them the alternative is possibly bloody toenails. “The caveat, though, is that getting a shoe that's too large ... can also make you lose your toenails,” he adds.

The easiest way to solve the size conundrum is to visit a specialty running store, Greene says, and give a trained person there as much information as possible about your running habits. “You don't need to tell them what you had for break-

see the pavement through them. Once your shoes have covered 500 miles, they're ready for retirement. To make sure he's on track, Yasso logs the number of miles he has covered with each shoe. “When I get up to 300 miles, I'll turn them into cutting-the-grass shoes,” he says.

Pribut says many people think they've stumbled on a great discovery when they notice that their heels wear on the outside corner at the back. “It does for most people. Where the wear is on a shoe is the point of first contact,” he says. More telling are oddities, like if the inner part of the heel is wearing down. Holes at the toes, of course, indicate a poor fit (or drastic need for toenail clipping).

Where the old pair really comes in handy is to show off what kind of support and stability you've had for your past 400 miles or so: Are you experiencing any aches or pains that indicate your new pair should have a little something extra? How well did these hold up with what you've been doing?

If what you've been using has been working, the shoe-store folks will typically start you with the same shoe. The only problem is that ... well, it might not actually be the same. Manufacturers update most of their shoes every 12 months, and sometimes the shifts can be dramatic.

Some changes can have a discernible impact on a shoe's “ride” and certainly affect its price. Even Grant, who was

### A RUNNING SHOE DISSECTED ASICS GEL-KINSEI 2





## Life &amp; Style

By SUSAN SALTER REYNOLDS  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

*"Please, don't hurt her.  
Don't argue with them. You told  
me this would happen.  
Leave her alone."*

LOS ANGELES—This is what 7-year-old Andrew Bridge thought as the police took him from his mentally ill mother on a Saturday afternoon on the streets of Los Angeles. Torn between the desire to protect his beloved mother and the need to be safe, he was pulled away from her and into a life that proved only marginally more bearable than his harrowing existence with her. Andy was taken to MacLaren Hall, public orphanage, "death house of childhoods," as he writes, and then placed with an emotionally and often physically abusive foster family in the San Fernando Valley, northwest of downtown where he stayed for 11 years. And yet, "Hope's Boy," published last month and reaching No. 6 on the New York Times best-seller list, is not an abuse book. The man I sit talking with 38 years later radiates happiness, excitement, health. He carries a picture of his mom on his iPhone. Bridge looks boyish, although not at all like the boy sporting an odd, blank, half-smiling stare on the book's cover. When he's particularly thrilled with a topic, he literally hops up and down, even when seated. "This is not a book about me," he insists. "It is a book about my mother."

His mother, Hope, was beautiful and proud. "When my mother walked down the street," the book begins, "men noticed." Bridge was proud of her, in spite of the precarious life she led with him -- full of dangerous men and angry landlords and bloody, botched attempts at suicide. Bridge describes his mother in the courtroom scene in which he officially was removed from her care. "My mother was twenty-four years old, descended from a line of impoverished women, educated to the tenth grade, abandoned by a husband, and plagued with fear. Standing at the judging bar, she must have recalled courtroom encounters from her own childhood. Now, a woman among her betters, she could do nothing more than be still and be judged." Helping vulnerable people, especially children and women, would become his life's work.

Not only did Bridge survive, he triumphed over the odds. Despite the fact that only 2 percent of the nation's 500,000-plus children in foster care get a college degree, he got a scholarship to Wesleyan University in Connecticut and then graduated from Harvard Law School. He got a Fulbright scholarship, studied in Germany and after a stint representing children on behalf of a national civil rights

# A foster child's story about a life against the odds



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Andrew Bridge is an advocate for children removed from their families. His book "Hope's Boy" recounts his foster experience.

“My mother was twenty-four years old, descended from a line of impoverished women, educated to the tenth grade, abandoned by a husband, and plagued with fear. Standing at the judging bar, she must have recalled courtroom encounters from her own childhood. Now, a woman among her betters, she could do nothing more than be still and be judged.”

organization, took the job as executive director of the Alliance for Children's Rights in Los Angeles, suing bureaucracies and institutions that fail to respect the rights of society's most vulnerable citizens.

Andrew Bridge saw his mother twice in the 10 years after he was taken from her. It is his firm belief that too many children are taken from their parents prematurely, that more resources and creativity should be applied to helping fragile families recover and better care for their children.

He thinks that foster care in this country has become a punitive solution for these vulnerable families. Social workers get more praise and bureaucracies

more compensation for "saving" children from potential abuse and keeping them in state care than for keeping families together. These social workers are, of course, concerned that if they leave a child in a precarious situation and something happens, they will be to blame. And families, meanwhile, are so terrified of their children being taken away that they do not rely on social workers when in dangerous situations. Bridge thinks much more can be done to help keep these families intact.

"For all our talk about family values," he says, "we really only mean certain families." Bridge saw firsthand what happens to vulnerable women in this or any city. "I saw my

mother raped, slapped, disrespected in every way, in spite of her amazing power as a beautiful, intelligent woman. She made bad choices, yes, but there is a fundamental lack of respect for the mother-child bond in this country."

In his work as a lawyer for children's rights -- at the Alliance for Children's Rights, then as managing director of child welfare reform at the Broad Foundation in Los Angeles and more recently on behalf of children in Alabama, Bridge says he meets relatively few "monsters." What is far more common is the absence of compassion. Bridge is critical of congregate care. It was with some satisfaction that he saw the closure of MacLaren

in 2003, referred to in an editorial in the Los Angeles Times as a publicly owned "human warehouse where unwanted youth were physically and psychologically abused over months or even years."

He spent years representing children at the Eufaula Adolescent Center in southern Alabama, a facility that also mercifully -- thanks to Bridge's efforts -- has been shut down. His next book, "Seven Days in Alabama," is about a group of boys, now men, who grew up in Alabama's foster care, state psychiatric and juvenile justice systems. ("Hope's Boy" begins with Bridge visiting Eddie, a boy who had been banished to a solitary cell in the basement of the facility

with a mattress on the floor. The boy soon kills himself.)

Bridge is keenly aware that most of the stories we hear about foster children are extreme (for example, the television show "Dexter," about a psychopathic former foster child). "We demonize the mentally ill and vulnerable in this country. Rarely do we hear about the gifted and talented kids who beat the soul-deadening system, much less the quiet, lonely kids somewhere in the middle."

Bridge is full of ideas for changing this, including a proposed set of federal incentives and rewards for kids in foster care who get good grades and for their foster parents. Under his leadership, the alliance established the Health Care Partnership for children, a consortium of Los Angeles hospitals working together to provide assistance to homeless children. He was a force behind the establishment of National Adoption Day; Los Angeles Appleseed, a public-interest law center; and the New Village Charter School, a Los Angeles college preparatory academy focusing on the needs of girls in the foster care system or in care of the state.

Bridge, who lives in New York City, has visited his mother several times in the Arizona facility where she lives. On a recent visit, he took his mother to a local drugstore to buy nail polish and lipstick. He was delighted when -- after the cumulative effects of her illness, various drug treatments and neglect -- some of her old vanity rekindled. She insisted not only on a certain shade of red but also that the lipstick and polish matched.

I ask him about some of the lasting effects of his childhood experiences, and he admits to a certain hyper-vigilance, a constant need to stay oriented and a constant awareness of the moods and feelings of those around him. Some of this has helped him in his work. The kids and women he talks to tend to trust him, in spite of differences in dress and appearance and perceived social status. This trust is a source of delight for Bridge.

"My mother lost everything a human being can lose," he says, telling me about one visit to his mother at a facility in which all of her teeth had been removed, probably to save money on further dental expenses. Bridge spent years not talking about his mother -- "she was too special to me. I didn't want people judging her." But he was encouraged by co-workers and friends and by his editor for this book at Hyperion.

"I wanted to write it while she was still alive," he says, although he does not think she will ever read it. "I love this woman more than anything," he says, quoting a line in the book: "her arms challenge every subsequent embrace."



# A pavilion where visitors are all aflutter

By TRACY GRANT  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**WASHINGTON**—The music is a meld of fortissimo “Eeeks” and “Oooh, look at that one” performed pianissimo.

The choreography is a naturalist’s version of the hokeypok-ey, with little feet clomping as they jump backward excitedly followed by little hands reaching forward gingerly.

It’s a symphonic ballet performed by three-foot-tall humans and three-inch-long insects.

The National Museum of Natural History’s new butterfly pavilion, part of the “Butterflies + Plants: Partners in Evolution” exhibition hall, is a half-block-long, gently curved enclosure with a gauze-like covering. Its resem-



THE WASHINGTON POST

Top, the new butterfly pavilion at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington is a half-block-long, gently curved enclosure with a gauze-like covering. Its resemblance to a cocoon is as unmistakable as it is appropriate: it is home to more than 30 species of butterflies.



THE WASHINGTON POST

A monarch butterfly sips nectar from a zinnia in the National Museum of Natural History’s new butterfly pavilion in Washington.

blance to a cocoon is as unmistakable as it is appropriate. After all, this is home to more than 30 species of butterflies with more than 400 flitting by on any given day.

Thirty-five people are allowed in the pavilion at about 30-minute intervals. Before entering the tropical garden, visitors receive a cardboard field guide to help identify species as well as a warning: “Watch your feet; we don’t want anyone squished,” a museum guide advises with a chuckle, and everyone knows he’s not talking

about squishing humans.

Inside the pavilion, visitors discover why this is one of the hottest tickets in town. Kept at 80 quite-humid degrees, it feels more like tropical Costa Rica than Washington in February. But that’s just one of the exhibition’s many enticements.

Bat-wing and bird-wing butterflies look as if their wings would be too delicate to heave their sturdy bodies into the air. But once they get going, they are among the most imposing

residents, the ones most likely to prompt visitors to duck out of their flight paths.

While the butterflies are the stars of the show, the foliage serves as a spectacular supporting cast. Stocky bromeliads (with strategically placed pieces of cantaloupe, grapefruit and orange) act as restaurants for the butterflies. Delicate flowering bushes provide landing areas and pollination destinations for the residents and eye candy for the visitors.

The butterflies, which come from Asia, Africa and the Americas, range from tiny to enormous and from eye-poppingly gorgeous to downright ordinary.

A stroll (stroller-free, please) in the tropics can take about 15 or 20 minutes, and before visitors leave, they are expected to do the hokeypokey one more time — this time to be sure that none of the pavilion’s residents are clinging to humans, having decided that butterflies really should be free.

## At a hip-hop contest in Dubai

By FAIZA SALEH AMBAH  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** — Even before they stepped onstage at the MTV Arabia competition finale, members of the Saudi hip-hop group Dark2Men knew they would not win.

The contestants were to be judged on their lyrics, stage presence and performance, but Dark2Men had never performed in public because of strict social and religious codes in their native Saudi Arabia that ban nightclubs, concerts and theaters. The seven other finalists, from the less restrictive Arab countries of Egypt, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates, had rapped live for years.

But backstage before the show, one of the show’s co-hosts told the contestants something that made Dark2Men’s impending loss seem like victory, the members said. “He said no matter what happened in the competition, we would go down in history when they wrote the book about Arab hip-

hop,” said Hani Zain, 27, who raps in Arabic for the group.

An Egyptian won the competition, which is being broadcast this month, but the three men of Dark2Men said their lives had been transformed by the experience in ways they had not imagined.

“It was an earthquake that shifted the world around us,” said Tamer Farhan, 24, who raps in English. “It gave meaning to all the hardships we faced to get here.”

Saudi Arabia, home to Islam’s holiest shrines, follows a stringent form of Islam that prohibits alcohol and the mingling of unrelated men and women. The conservative kingdom does not allow the study of music in schools, and many Saudis consider careers in acting, singing or dancing as shameful.

But the advent of satellite television channels such as MTV Arabia, which was launched in the Emirates in November, and social networking Web sites have made it easier for young people to pursue in-

terests deemed contrary to the country’s tradition and culture.

The Dark2Men members, for example, met up on a rap Web site, and they compose their music using online programs. They have posted several songs on YouTube and have a Facebook site.

But even as they rap in praise of Islam and their mothers, and against the war in Iraq and terrorism, their biggest hurdle has been convincing family, friends and Saudi society that they are not simply trying to imitate a decadent Western lifestyle.

Since winning the MTV Arabia hip-hop audition in January, they have struggled with fiancées unhappy about the attention garnered by their television appearances broadcast across the Arab world, bosses angry about their extended leaves from work and fathers worried that their sons would leave stable jobs and become entertainers.

For a week last month in Dubai, they forgot those pressures as they danced until dawn

at nightclubs, stared wide-eyed at a fancy restaurant’s glass-enclosed cold room full of wine and champagne bottles, and learned how to move onstage.

Maan Mansour, 25, who sings in Arabic and English and had never traveled outside of Saudi Arabia, said he developed a passion for performing. “There’s this unique feeling you get right before you go onstage that’s fear and excitement,” he said. “Then as soon as you put your foot on that first step, it’s as if a cascade of cool water washes over your chest, and it’s amazing.”

Zain said a highlight of the MTV Arabia experience was spending time with Farid “Fredwreck” Nassar, a Palestinian American music producer who has worked with American rappers 50 Cent and Snoop Dogg.

Zain, Dark2Men’s main composer, said he pestered Nassar while he was producing the group’s song, asking questions and looking over his shoulder, but was told several times, half-jokingly, to leave the room. “I



THE WASHINGTON POST

Before their appearance in Dubai, Dark2Men rappers Tamer Farhan, left, Hani Zain and Maan Mansour had not performed in public because of Saudi Arabia codes.

learned more in two days with Farid than I did in years in Saudi Arabia,” Zain said.

Farhan, who now spends an hour a day answering fan mail, sat with his laptop at a coffee shop during his lunch hour last week and sighed as he read a notice from a fellow contestant, Emirati rap group Desert Heat, announcing a performance at a

nightclub in Oman, with tickets selling for \$26.

“If I could make money rapping like these guys, I would have left my job,” Farhan said. But there’s nowhere to perform in Saudi Arabia, and leaving his job would mean that Farhan and his family would be without health insurance, a risk he said he was not ready to take.



## Timely screening for cancer can save thousands of lives

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** America is making steady progress in the war against colon cancer. It's largely because of early detection and improved treatments. However, there's more to be done, and here is where I need your help.

Abby, colon cancer remains the third-leading cause of cancer deaths in both men and women in the United States, with about 50,000 deaths expected this year. The good news is that colon cancer is one of the two cancers (the other is cervical cancer) that can be prevented through regular screening. Colon cancer tests allow doctors to find and remove growths (called "polyps") before they become cancerous, thereby preventing cancer. Furthermore, these screening tests can also detect cancer at an earlier, more curable stage.

Unfortunately, many Americans still aren't getting lifesaving tests for colon cancer. Only four out of 10 Americans get the recommended screening. Therefore, only 39 percent of the new cases are found at an early stage, when a cure is most possible. A substantial number of the 50,000 deaths expected from colon cancer this year could have been avoided with wider use of proven screening tests.

As always, the American Cancer Society is here to offer help, including a free information kit to make it easy for people to talk to their doctor about colon cancer testing.

ELMER E. HUERTA, M.D.,  
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR DR. HUERTA:** Thank you for reminding me to remind my readers that March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness month. We all know that testing saves lives, and it is my hope that because of your letter, Dear Abby readers will become more aware of the importance of getting tested for colon cancer and will talk to their doctor about having the tests done beginning at age 50.

Readers, for more information about this important subject, call (800) 227-2345 or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) anytime, day or night, and let the American Cancer Society help you stop colon cancer before it starts.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My nephew is being married this summer in an outdoor garden wedding. He casually mentioned that his future mother-in-law plans to purchase several large planters with live plants from a housewares store to use for the ceremony. She then intends to return the planters for a refund, saying, "They didn't work out."

I consider this to be totally unethical. My family agrees, but because the bride's family is paying most of the wedding costs, we feel it is inappropriate to speak up.

Now I'm beginning to wonder about the morals of the family into which my nephew is marrying. But since I'm only a relative, I can't say anything without starting trouble. What do you think?

DREADING THE WEDDING, ANAHEIM, CALIF.

**DEAR DREADING THE WEDDING:** There's a saying, "All that's needed for evil to flourish is for good people to say nothing." If you and the family have already made your opinions known, then you have done enough. But while you're "wondering about the morals of the family into which your nephew is marrying," you should also wonder about the ethics and morals of a young man who would allow this to be done on one of the most sacred occasions in his life. Shame on him for not speaking up.

As to this practice being harmless, many companies have eliminated return policies because of it. So everyone gets hurt.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)*

## Mario Lopez to join 'Chorus Line'

By ROBERT KAHN  
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

**NEW YORK**—Mario Lopez, who once played second banana to a guy named Zack on "Saved by the Bell," will become a Zach in his own right beginning April 15 when he joins the cast of Broadway's "A Chorus Line."

Lopez will make his Broadway debut as the demanding director who is in charge of casting the chorus roles for a new Broadway musical. He's scheduled to stay with "Chorus Line" at the Schoenfeld Theatre through Sept. 7.

Although Lopez has earned his keep in recent years hosting beauty pageants and appearing on Extra TV, he is best known for his 2006 spin as a celebrity contestant on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," partnering with dancer Karina Smirnoff. The actor finished second to Emmitt Smith.

Lopez also left a memorable impression in a fourth-season episode of "Nip/Tuck," guest starring as a plastic surgeon who drives Christian Troy to jealousy when he sees him naked in a shower.

Mario Lopez stars as Dr. Christian Ramirez in *The Bold and the Beautiful* on CBS.



## Queler's OONY perseveres

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Eve Queler has helped turn rare operas into repertory staples.

In an era when even the least-performed compositions are receiving attention somewhere, her Opera Orchestra of New York perseveres.

Rumors circulated last year that the OONY was in financial trouble, and several of the singers she helped early in their careers agreed to return for a gala fundraiser. Renee Fleming, Marcello Giordani, Dolara Zajick and Aprile Millo headlined Thursday night's performance, and the auditorium was close to filled for Queler's 100th performance with the OONY at Carnegie Hall.

Galas of this kind can be routine, with under-rehearsed singers belting out some of opera's greatest hits. This one ended memorably, with 74-year-old retired soprano Renata Scotto taking her turn alongside Fleming and sopranos Krassimira

Stoyanova and Eglise Gutierrez as Violetta in the Brindisi from Verdi's "La Traviata."

And then there was Zajick, the powerhouse mezzo, reading from photocopied sheet music as she tore into an unfamiliar part. As Fleming held the concluding high B-flat, Zajick joined in, and her huge voice overwhelmed all the other singers. Fleming smiled and laughed, and Zajick threw the sheet music over her head.

When Queler raised her baton for an encore of the Brindisi, Zajick had to walk over and pick up the sheet music to join in. Fleming even attempted (unsuccessfully) to get Scotto to take over Violetta's opening lines. Giordani put his arm around Scotto, walked over to Fleming and knelt in apology. A good time was had by all.

Queler has presented the American premieres of Puccini's "Edgar" (with Scotto and Carlo Bergonzi); Boito's "Nerone," Smetana's "Libuse,"

and the Russian-language version of Tchaikovsky's "The Maid of Orleans" (with Zajick). Many of the works she brought to Carnegie have become relatively common, such as Verdi's "Nabucco" and "I Lombardi," Dvorak's "Rusalka," and Musorgsky's "Khovanshchina."

Queler also fills a valuable role in finding young singers. Gutierrez is scheduled to appear at London's Royal Opera as Gilda in 2010. Stoyanova already has sung at the Metropolitan and Vienna State Operas.

On a night dominated by bel canto, Zajick got the biggest ovation among the singers for a scorching "O mon Fernand" from Donizetti's "La Favorite." Fleming, wearing a cream gown that matched her creamy voice, sang "M'odi, ah m'odi, io non t'imploro" from Donizetti's "Lucrezia Borgia," a role she will sing at the Washington National Opera next season.

## 'Naked City' writer Malvin Wald dies

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** -- Malvin Wald, a screenwriter who was nominated for an Academy Award for the 1948 movie "The Naked City," has died at 90.

Wald died Thursday at Sherman Oaks Hospital from age-related causes, said his son, Alan.

Wald wrote dozens of scripts for motion pictures and TV shows including "Peter Gunn," "Daktari" and "Perry Mason."

He wrote the story for "The Naked City," then co-wrote the screenplay with Albert Maltz, who was one of the "Hollywood 10" of blacklisted writers during the McCarthy era.

"The Naked City" was a groundbreaking, gritty drama, filmed on location in New York, about police investigating a murder. It ended with the now-famous line: "There are 8 million stories in the naked city. This has been one of them."

Wald, a Brooklyn native, researched the story by following real New York homicide detectives.

"No one had done a film where the real hero was a hardworking police detective, like the ones I knew in Brooklyn," Wald told the Hollywood Reporter last year. "We knew we were making a new genre that became the police procedural."

In addition to Wald's nomination, the movie won two Oscars for film editing and cinematography. It also spawned a popular television show of the same name that aired from 1958 to 1963 and inspired countless others.

"What we see all over our TV screens today originated in large part in that movie," film historian Leonard Maltin told the Los Angeles Times on Friday. "It was a novelty then, deglamorizing Hollywood's depiction of crime-solving, taking it out of the hands of glamorous or exotic private investigators and following the day-to-day, mundane activities of the police."

## Tenor Ben Heppner out with virus at Met

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Tenor Ben Heppner will miss Monday's opener of the Metropolitan Opera's highly anticipated revival of Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde" because of a virus.

Heppner and soprano Deborah Voigt, two of the world's leading Wagnerian singers, had been scheduled to sing "Tristan" together for the first time, and the six-performance run is close to sold out.

Heppner missed Friday's dress rehearsal because of the virus and was replaced by John Mac Master. Mac Master will replace Heppner on Monday night, the Met said Saturday.

Heppner remains scheduled to sing with Voigt in performances on March 14, 18, 22, 25 and 28. The March 22 matinee is scheduled for a high-definition telecast to theaters around the world.



Canadian tenor Ben Heppner poses for a portrait in his dressing room at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, in this Jan. 20, 2003 file photo.



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



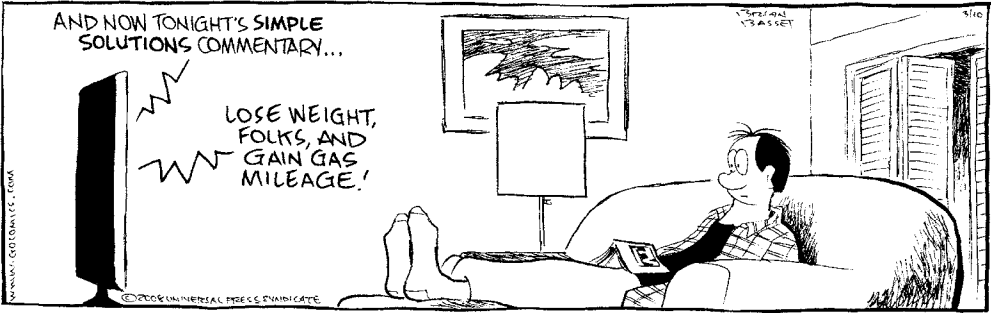
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Boaz, to 1 Caution 5 Phys ed venue 8 Pack cargo 12 Sandwich cookie 13 Floral neckwear 14 Stephen King pooch 15 Chicken — 16 Naked 18 Cruelness 20 Wimbledon game 21 Ahab or Kirk (Abbr.) 23 Humor 24 Woodshop tool 28 Ace or joker 31 Greek mountain 32 Credit's opposite 34 Rink surface 35 Slave of old

DOWN 1 Stir-fry variety 2 Operatic cookware 3 Clarinet solo 4 Tyro insert 5 Quick looks 6 Japanese money 7 Catcher's aid 8 Pano-ramic 9 Prepare to run away 10 California town 11 Knocks 'em dead 17 Chop 19 Carnelian 22 Forbidden 24 Bro's kin 25 Citrus cooler 26 "Cheers" seat 27 Sifted 29 — Victor 30 Lawn moisture 33 Watch sound 36 Aggressively lively 38 Within reach 40 Pub order 42 Bullets 43 Roger Rabbit, e.g. 44 Open slightly 46 Days gone by 47 List-ending abbr. 48 Profound 50 Past

Solution time: 24 mins.

WOKEN AFRAME  
VIRAGO BRACER  
ESCROW LAGERS  
TEAM ADEN RET  
AIDE SIB  
IKE BALM CIAO  
SEVENYEARITCH  
MAID STLO YES  
LOW EDDY  
SAD HIDE OHMS  
ICONIC MAKEUP  
GREENE ENERGY  
HERDED RILES

Saturday's answer 3-10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
			21			22	23			
24	25	26				27	28	29	30	
31			32			33	34			
35			36		37		38			
		39		40	41					
42	43			44	45		46	47	48	
49					50		51			
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shannon Miller, 31; Jasmine Guy, 44; Sharon Stone, 50; Chuck Norris, 68

Happy Birthday: Although new doors will open and old ones will close this year, you will have to remind the people around you what you really want to see unfold. Your energy will be high and your determination strong. Don't be afraid to ask for favors or to press people for what you need to complete your year's mission. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 24, 27, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid overbooking your time if you want to do a good job today. A power play may be in effect so keep a close eye on what everyone else is doing. Charm, creativity and good common sense will win out. \*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't get bogged down with what everyone else wants you to do when you should be pushing your own talents and ideas. Discuss your plans with people in the know who want to help you out or even get involved. \*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can find your way to the top if you use ingenuity and imagination. Don't be fooled by anyone who is constantly changing his or her mind. Follow your own path and don't look back. \*\*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have the power to push your way to victory. Your persistence coupled with your desire to get what you want will pay off. You don't have to go too far off the beaten track in order to find what you want. \*\*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let love lead you astray or stop you from getting what needs to be done complete. Gauge what's important and what can wait if you don't want to lose ground. Take advantage of an opening or opportunity. \*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be persuasive, appealing and very knowledgeable about what needs to be done. Your vision and powerful push for what you want will be victorious. Travel and invest in yourself. \*\*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Watch where you spend your money. Bad deals surround you. Love is in the air. A new relationship can begin or you can renew your vows with someone you are already with. \*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotional matters will escalate, causing problems that must be dealt with. This is not the time to hide your true feelings. A chance to invest in something you believe in is apparent. Money is heading your way. \*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make changes and set a standard for all to follow but be aware that someone is watching your every move. Do things right and you will end up a hero for your accomplishments. \*\*\*\*

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may know what you are doing but don't expect everyone else to be in your corner today. Questions will be asked, so be prepared to answer accordingly. Whatever support you need

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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will be offered if you can prove you have a solid plan in place. \*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Money is in the picture if you use your imagination and creative ability to persuade others to help you out. You may question emotional issues from your childhood but you mustn't let this limit what is done now. You can't live in the past. \*\*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't overspend on something that someone else is prompting you to get involved in. A secret matter is likely to entice you but you will have regrets if you do something questionable. Fix whatever is causing you trouble at home and in your personal life. \*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are inventive and quick to react. You are a humanitarian, a loyal friend and a great companion. You can see both sides of any situation.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1				5	2		9	4
7			3			8		
	5	6	4			2		
5				8		6	3	
3				1				7
	6	7		4				9
		2			5	3	7	
		3			4			6
6	1		9	3				8

Difficulty Level ★ 3/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	2	5	4	1	8	9	7
4	5	8	9	6	7	3	1	2
1	7	9	3	2	8	4	5	6
2	4	7	1	5	3	6	8	9
8	9	1	4	7	6	2	3	5
3	6	5	2	8	9	1	7	4
5	8	6	7	1	4	9	2	3
9	2	4	8	3	5	7	6	1
7	1	3	6	9	2	5	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FIRE EXITS Solution: 5 letters

R	E	T	L	S	P	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	E	D
G	E	U	I	A	M	A	L	D	E	P	P	A	R	T
E	N	G	N	X	Y	O	T	A	A	L	E	S	A	N
P	N	I	U	E	E	O	K	H	C	R	R	F	S	E
A	C	F	D	L	V	V	U	E	U	E	L	T	A	V
C	S	I	R	L	A	A	A	T	H	O	E	R	F	E
S	D	R	I	R	I	T	C	S	O	S	R	R	E	R
E	R	E	L	T	O	U	I	R	T	S	A	E	T	P
C	A	F	L	L	R	U	B	O	A	S	W	Y	Y	R
N	Z	I	I	T	G	A	T	L	N	E	A	O	A	E
A	A	G	S	N	R	M	P	E	O	C	L	F	W	M
R	H	H	I	R	E	V	A	E	L	C	O	C	A	I
T	Y	T	I	R	U	C	E	S	D	A	K	O	T	S
N	X	E	T	A	C	A	V	I	S	I	B	L	E	E
E	R	R	O	D	I	R	R	O	C	A	L	L	G	S

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Access, Avenue, Aware, Barrier, Block, Building, Call, Clear, Codes, Corridor, Depart, Drill, Entrance, Escape, Exit, Extinguishers, Firefighter, Floor, Foyer, Getaway, Hazards, Layout, Leave, Light, Panic, Path, Place, Premises, Prevent, Protected, Regulation, Route, Safety, Save, Security, Sign, Smoke, Structure, Test, Trapped, Vacate, Visible

Last Saturday's Answer: Formal

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26, send \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 plus for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1528 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at [upuzzles.com](http://upuzzles.com). (Contains 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 30 size.)



# CLASSIFIED ADS

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$25</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$35</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$45</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$55</b>

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

<b>1st position</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>2nd position</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Succeeding positions</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

#### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY



Worldwide Company. Need ambitious self-starters. Meeting at Fiesta Resort, 8:00PM March 13 or 9:00AM March 17. Xango distributors welcome to bring guests.

#### FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

DanDan House for Lease/Rent. 2 story concrete house, walled and gated, unfurnished, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, walk-in closet, carport, outside shower, front porch, basement, large outside kitchen, gazebo, panoramic view of Lualau Bay, rooftop patio, & BBQ, private party area, safe, secure & private comfortable home. Call 288-5264 or 322-0268 view by appointment.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

2 br furnished apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Road. Close to beach walking path. \$400/mo. Call 483-1974.

3 Bedroom House for Rent. San Vicente area. Telephone No.: 483-8295

Apartment for Rent in Aslito. Fully furnished, 24 hrs water. Safe location. Call 256-3864/287-7769

#### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 VIDEO OPERATOR (SM 0016) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: KP Enterprises, Inc. dba KP's Mart, KP Video Tape Production, KP Video, KP Accounting & Book Keeping @323-5568/433-2534.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (SM 0017) Salary:\$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; surety bond; medical & worksmen compensation. Contact: ASG Corporation dba Elite Printing @288-6465/2677.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SM 0018) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; worksmen compensation & medical. Contact: Minami Kaze Corporation dba Minami Kaze Saipan @234-2101.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (SM 0019) Salary:\$700.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compen-

WHATZIT? Solution: Service with a smile  
sation. Contact: Milne & Reyes Enterprises @235-6657.

1 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (SM 0020) Salary:\$3.55-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical; workmen's compensation & transportation self provided. Contact: Silk Road Corporation dba Saipan Country Club @234-8718.

3 GROUNDSKEEPER (SM 0021) Salary:\$3.55-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical; workmen's compensation & transportation self provided. Contact: Silk Road Corporation dba Saipan Country Club @234-8718.

1 PACKER (SM 0022) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 UPHOLSTERER (SM 0023) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Sikayun Virginia G. dba 3A's Polyshine @235-8938.

1 TECHNICIAN AUTO (AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORIES INSTALLER) (SM 0024) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; workmen compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Sikayun Virginia G. dba 3A's Polyshine @235-8938.

1 CARPENTER (MW 0012) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 AUTO PAINTER (MW 0013) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 TOUR GUIDE (COORDINATOR) (MW 0014) Salary:\$3.90/hour. Benefits: \$75.00/ housing allowance; \$50.00/gas allowance; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 DRIVER, TRACTOR, TRAILER, TRUCK (MW 0015) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 OPERATION MANAGER (MW 0016) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE/ REPAIRER (MW 0017) Salary:\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation employer provided. Contact: Gualo Rai Center, Inc. @234-6552.

1 BAKER (MW 0018) Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Duties: Specializes in baking of pizzas. Must be familiar with proper temperatures and ingredients. Must be familiar with proper kitchen preparation & clean-ups. Must be familiar & knowledgeable in proper dough rising times for each specialized dough & related duties with the position of baker. Benefits: Company provided housing; self arranged food; workers compensation & medical provides. Annual vacation, after one year of continuous employment & transportation self provided. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

1 WAITER/WAITRESS (MW 0019) Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Duties: May assist in seating, setting-up & cleaning tables, answering questions to customers and other related duties assigned or required with the position of being a waiter. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; self provided transportation; annual vacation after one (1) year of continuous employment, workers compensation & medical provided. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

3 SHIFT MANAGERS (MW 0020) Salary:\$3.55-\$5.85/hour. Duties: Performs assigned supervisory duties to ensure effective unit operation, monitor and ensures FAST customer service, he/she interacts effectively with customers by following verbal customer complaint procedure should it be necessary. Monitors and ensures ingredients and products are prepared according to specifications while maintaining adequate inventory levels, while monitoring and ensuring restaurant cleanliness. Ensures adherence to cash control procedures. Complete and uses position sheet to make job assignments while directing the activities of all employees. Ensures compliance with all PIZZAHUT, INC. policies and procedures. Adequately staffs restaurant to meet projected sales. Is responsible for the smooth operation and efficient running of the restaurant during his/her shift. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; self arranged transportation, workers compensation and medical provided, annual vacation after one year of continuous employment. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

3 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER REST. (MW 0021) Salary:\$3.55-\$8.24/hour. Duties: Accountabilities:  
I. Manages Restaurant Environment  
A. Maintain positive customer relations.  
1. Ensures prompt, friendly and courteous service.  
2. Ability to make adjustments to meet projected sales  
3. Directs activities to employ-

ees during peak revenue periods.  
4. Handles verbal customer complaints (advise manager).

B. Ensures quality products  
1. Ensures products are made to Hawaii Pizza Hut, Inc. specifications.  
2. Supervise correct amounts and quality of ingredients prep to meet protected sales.

C. Maintains physical plant  
1. Organizes work areas to ensure ease of operations.  
2. Maintains restaurant cleanliness  
3. Advise restaurant manager regarding nonroutine problems  
4. Maintains opening/closing/ shift change checklist

D. In-restaurant marketing programs  
1. Provides input for promotional ideas.  
2. Maintain positive community relations  
3. Maintains point of sales material

II. Manages Employee Performance  
A. Recruits interview and select employees  
1. Participates in new employee orientation  
2. Participates and conducts group training sessions  
3. Participate and conducts group training sessions.  
4. Advise manager of employee training sessions  
5. Maintains positive involvement in all areas of training

B. Communicates and gives instructions  
1. Gives instructions to employees to meet job requirements  
2. Enfore all company policies and procedures  
3. Set a positive example for employees

C. Supervise work  
1. Make job assignments  
2. Observes performance of employees  
3. Take corrective actions to ensure acceptable employee performance (advise manager)  
D. Gives feedback  
1. Teaches employee non-negotiable standards of performance  
2. Provides feedback to manager  
3. Participates in formal performance review

E. Maintains positive labor relations  
1. Assures compliance with minimum wage/child labor/ OSHA/EEO/FLSA policies and procedures  
2. Informs employee of available company benefits  
3. Responds to employee complaints (advise manager)  
4. Promotes teamwork

D. Maintains controls  
A. Participates in planning and budgeting  
1. Participates in planning and budgeting  
2. Participates in planning master schedule  
B. Controls labor hours and cost  
1. Identifies deviation from desired results

# WHATZIT?

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**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

2. Develops and executes corrective action plans (corresponds with manager)

C. Controls cost of sales to budget

1. Identifies deviation from desired results  
2. Develops and executes corrective action plans (corresponds with manager)

D. Controls semi-variables to budget

1. Identifies deviation from desired results  
2. Develops and executes corrective action plans (corresponds with manager)

E. Maintains required daily/weekly/period financial controls

1. Submits accurate reports  
Complies with cash controls procedure. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

**1. FOOD SERVICE MANAGER (MW 0022)**  
Salary: \$1,000.00-\$3,740.84/monthly. **Duties: Job Summary:** The Restaurant General Manager reports directly to the Multi-Unit Supervisor. He/she provides overall leadership and direct supervision of operations in an individual Pizza Hut unit to ensure that the restaurant meets or exceeds its Annual Operating Plan. Focal points include: Driving excellence in customer service, maintaining company standards in product and facility specifications, supervising food handling procedures and operational processes, exercising financial control to meet unit profit margin targets, and selecting, training, developing and motivating employees. The Restaurant General Manager directly performs hands-on operational work (as necessary) to train employees, respond to customer service needs, or otherwise role model appropriate skills and behaviors in the restaurant.

**Essential Functions:**

1. Customer Satisfaction/Product Quality  
• Maintains fast, accurate service, positive guest relations and ensures products are consistent with company quality standards  
• Drives customer-focused culture by serving as role model in resolving customer issues and training managers and crew to meet or exceed customer service standards.  
• Tracks, analyzes, and resolves sources of customer complaints.  
• Ensures that food safety standards are met.

**2. Financial**

• Develops and drives restaurant Annual Operating Plan.  
• Analyzes sales, labor, inventory, and controllables on a continual basis and takes corrective action to meet or achieve margin and sales growth targets.  
• Trains and mentors subordinates on financial analyses and profitability tips for the restaurant.  
• Develops store CAPEX requests and is the principle interface with all vendors.

**3. Operations**

• Ensures that facilities and equipment are maintained to Pizza Hut standards  
• Monitors inventory, food preparation, and order fulfillment on a daily basis to ensure adherence to company standards.  
• Establishes restaurant Speed of Service targets, monitors performance, and resolves

bottlenecks to achieve SOS goals

- Oversees development and revision of weekly management and crew schedules
- 4. Human Resources
  - Directs all restaurant-level HR activity including: Personal accountability for crew hiring decisions, STP planning and execution, performance management, compensation, and employee relations issues up to and including termination
  - Provides "hands-on" training for management staff in advanced STP modules and develops all Shift Managers and Assistant Restaurant General Managers incumbents to assume higher level responsibilities
  - Develops and monitors staffing plans and directs crew sourcing activities.
  - Manages the work environment on all shifts to ensure fair and equitable employee treatment, as well as adherence to all company, state, and federal workplace regulations

**Success Measures:**

1. Achievement of Restaurant Annual HQSC performance to plan
2. Financial results to annual plan
3. Margin Improvement and Sales Growth
4. Weekly/Period Restaurant Performance in Sales, Labor, ICOS, and Controllables
5. STP Certification Levels, Management Turnover, and Staff Levels
6. STP Certification Levels, Crew Turnover, and Staff Levels
7. IMD/personal goals achievement

**Knowledge/Skill Requirements**

1. Delivers Excellence in Customer Service
  - Is fully aware of customer needs and ensures that they receive quality products and service. Ensures work is to the correct standard
  - Possesses extremely high standards of product quality and speed of service and constantly monitors performance against those standards
  - Possesses a strong eye for detail and cleanliness
  - Presents a positive image through tidy and professional appearance of self and other employees
  - Interacts with customers in a high effective and proactive manner
  - Consistently seeks to improve the customer experience.
  - Demonstrates and emphasizes to others the importance of a winning customer experience.
  - Uses customer feedback tools and techniques in making decisions and improving restaurant performance
2. Team Leadership
  - Supervises others and efficiently coordinates their work
  - Delegates tasks to the most appropriate member of staff
  - Is able to remain in control in difficult situations
  - Provides clear direction and authority
  - Gets involved in a "hands-on" manner and leads by example
  - Is assertive
  - Communicates restaurant goals and a motivating vision; link individual performance to achieving restaurant goals.
  - Demonstrates principled leadership and sound business ethics; stands up for what's right.
  - Celebrates achievements; recognizes and awards others; generates pride and commitment.

- Regularly coaches staff to drive performance against objectives; provides ongoing, constructive feedback
- Demonstrates passion, enthusiasm, and intensity in work; is a role model
- 3. Business Savvy
  - Identifies problems quickly; assertively develops and implements solutions; manages restaurant flow to ensure customer satisfaction
  - Focuses the team on critical business issues; plans, organizes and delegate work for peak efficiency.
  - Ensures understanding and use of available business tools by appropriate team members
  - Accurately analyzes financial data; identifies trends and takes appropriate action; follow-up to ensure 100% implementation
  - Understands key business drives and uses this knowledge to build sales and achieve margin targets
- 4. Team Development
  - Identifies appropriate staff development needs and action plans and ensures time is available for crew development
  - Is tenacious in ensuring that all employees receive the opportunity to learn and demonstrate new skills
  - Transfers own knowledge to others by clearly demonstrating procedures, maintaining high standards, and "walking the talk"
  - Provides resources for development, follows up and gives positive, direct feedback
  - Provides ongoing coaching and feedback as well as periodic formal assessment of progress.

**Educational Requirements:**

1. Strong preference for internal promote from Assistant Restaurant General Manager position; internal promotes both STP 4 and SERV-SAFE certified.
2. High school diploma or GED
3. 1-3 years supervisory experience in either a food service or retail environment
4. Demonstrated ability to maintain financial control and to coach and train hourly employees
5. Proven ability to drive customer satisfaction, financial performance, and employee satisfaction.

Tenure Expectations/Career Path:

1. Minimum time in position is 12-18 months
2. Potential Career Path:
  - Senior Manager

Multi Unit Supervisor. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

**1 COOK (KOREAN CUISINE) (MW 0023)**

Salary: \$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Yokyung Corporation dba Mi Dang Restaurant @235-0077.

**1 MANAGER, COMPUTER & INFORMATION SYSTEM (SM 0025)**

Salary: \$1,972.00-\$2,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical as provided by law & workmen's compensation. Contact: L&T Group of Companies Ltd. @236-2400/2457.

**1 ACCOUNTANT (SM 0026)**

Salary: \$3.55-\$5.50/hour. Benefits: Medical as provided by law & workmen's compensation. Contact: L&T Group of Companies Ltd. @236-2400/2457.

**1 HOUSEWORKER (SM 0027)**  
Salary: \$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Zheng Biao @483-1188.

**2 ARCADE ATTENDANT (SM 0028)**

Salary: \$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation insurance & medical reimbursable. Contact: Jimin Enterprises, Inc. dba Grand Poker/Royal Casino @233-3378.

**1 BAKER (SM 0029)**

Salary: \$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Winchell's Inc. dba Winchell's Donut House @235-0247.

**1 COUNTER ATTENDANT (SM 0030)**

Salary: \$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Winchell's Inc. dba Winchell's Donut House @234-5566.

**1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (SM 0031)**

Salary: \$6.20/hour. Benefits: Self

provided housing; self provided food; medical expense & worker compensation. Contact: Yaong Corporation @235-8727.

**1 SALES SUPERVISOR (SM 0032)**

Salary: \$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical expense & worker compensation. Contact: Yaong Corporation @235-8727.

**1 FOUNTAIN SERVER (SM 0033)**

Salary: \$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee provided food; medical & workmen's compensation as provided by employer. Contact: John Hirsh dba Big Dipper Ice Cream Factory @233-9352.

**1 AUTO MECHANIC (SM 0034)**

Salary: \$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Mantrade Company Inc. @235-0695/898-5713.

**1 PLUMBER (SM 0035)**

Salary: \$3.55-\$5.60/hour. Benefits:

Free housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Vestcor Real Estate, Ltd. @322-3797.

**1 MAINTENANCE BLDG. REPAIRER (SM 0036)**

Salary: \$3.55-\$4.70/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Vestcor Real Estate, Ltd. @322-3797.

**1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (SM 0037)**

Salary: \$800.00-\$1,995.00/monthly. Benefits: Free housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Vestcor Real Estate, Ltd. @322-3797.

**1 MASON (SM 0038)**

Salary: \$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Guangdong Dev. Co., Ltd. @288-2288.

**1 SALES MANAGER (SM 0039)**

Salary: \$3.50-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Guangdong Dev. Co., Ltd. @288-2288.



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# Hawks sweep Heat in replay doubleheader



ATLANTA (AP)—In less than three hours, the Atlanta Hawks added two much-needed wins to their record. The Hawks held off hapless Miami in the replay of a protested game, then defeated the Heat in the regularly scheduled contest 97-94 as Joe Johnson matched a season high with 39 points Saturday night.

Atlanta, vying for the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, started the night with a 114-111 overtime victory. The teams had to replay the final 51.9 seconds of a Dec. 19 game, which was protested by the Heat after the home team's stat crew mistakenly ruled Shaquille O'Neal had fouled out in the extra period.

O'Neal wasn't even around for the do-over, having been traded to Phoenix last month.

Johnson hit 15 of 27 from the field and doled out eight assists, helping the Hawks hold off the league's worst team twice in the same evening.

Miami had several chances to force overtime on a night that began with bonus play. Ricky Davis, who led Miami with 27 points, and Dwyane Wade, who added 24, both missed 3-pointers in the final minute. The Heat had one more chance after Salim Stoudamire missed a free throw with 3.9 seconds left.

Daequan Cook got off yet another 3 just before the buzzer, but it clanked off the rim and the Hawks escaped.

The teams had some extra business to get out of the way before their regularly scheduled game. The NBA ordered the teams back to the court after upholding Miami's protest of a 117-111 loss to the Hawks on Dec. 19. The stat crew said O'Neal fouled out with 51.9 seconds left in overtime when he actually had only five fouls.

"Come on Hawks fans, it's overtime!" the Hawks announcer yelled to the crowd. "Let's make some noise!"

The replay took a little over 2 minutes to play, and neither team scored. Miami had the ball first, but Mark Blount missed a turnaround jumper in the lane. Johnson could have clinched it for the Hawks, but his bank shot rolled off the rim with 19 seconds to go.

Miami raced down court and called timeout to set up a play that could have forced a second overtime period—more than 2 1/2 months after the first one began. The Heat managed to get the ball to Wade, but he missed a desperation 3 from the corner with 1.5 seconds left.

Wade ran off the court with a smile, while embattled Hawks coach Mike Woodson pumped his fist. The disputed game certainly meant a lot more to Atlanta than it did to the hapless Heat.

"It's a bizarre situation. It doesn't happen often," Heat coach Pay Riley said between



Atlanta Hawks center Zaza Pachulia, right, and Miami Heat guard Chris Quinn, left, battle for a loose ball between the legs of Hawks guard Mike Bibby during the second half of their NBA basketball game on Saturday, March 8, 2008, at Philips Arena in Atlanta.

games. "And it isn't something that everybody was excited about. But I guarantee you the Atlanta Hawks are very excited about it because they're playing for a season."

The Hawks seemed a bit confused about what to do after winning the replay. The players lingered on the court for a few seconds, then headed toward the locker room. But they had to return quickly to begin warming up for the regular game, which tipped off 15 minutes later.

One of the officials, Scott Foster, couldn't resist having a little fun after the replay.

"That was the best game I've ever had," he said at the scoring table. "I didn't make one mistake."

Atlanta, trying to make the playoffs for the first time since 1999, desperately needed to win both games. They were among a half-dozen teams within three games of the final postseason spot in the East.

"It's huge for our ballclub in a sense because if we're able to handle our business tonight, then we move up in the eight spot," Woodson said beforehand. "That's what's more important than anything."

Miami (11-50) has the worst record in the NBA, its postseason hopes long since abandoned. If Riley had known how this season would turn out, he probably wouldn't have bothered protesting the December loss.

"Back then—it seems so long ago—we were desper-

ate," Riley said. "We were fighting desperately every night to try to stay in games and win games. We thought we were going to get out of this funk we were in. We were fighting for anything. So we protested the game and hoped that we would continue to win then and that we would have a shot at winning this one. But it's all turned around on us."

NBA commissioner David Stern ruled the Hawks were "grossly negligent" in keeping stats during the December contest, and also fined the team \$50,000. Atlanta officials said it was an honest mistake and thought the league was too harsh in its punishment.

The protest was the first granted by the NBA since December 1982, when then-commissioner Larry O'Brien upheld a request for a replay by the San Antonio Spurs after their 137-132 double-overtime loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. The teams finally finished the game in April 1983, with San Antonio winning 117-114. The Spurs won the regular game as well.

"Two for the price of one," the Hawks' Web site said, urging fans to come out for the doubleheader. "History will be made tonight."

Back in December, the Hawks were leading 112-111 in overtime when O'Neal was called for a sixth foul that was actually his fifth. The mistake stemmed from a foul with 3:24 remaining in the fourth quarter that was

called on Udonis Haslem but mistakenly credited to O'Neal by the scoring table.

Al Horford made two free throws after O'Neal's disputed foul. The Hawks were allowed to keep those points, giving them a 114-111 lead for the replay.

Taking into account that O'Neal had been traded and the Hawks dealt away four players for point Mike Bibby at the trade deadline, the league allowed both teams to use players acquired since the disputed game.

Shawn Marion, who came to Miami in the O'Neal trade, was in the Heat's lineup, meaning he will officially go down as having played for two different teams on the same day - and losing both times. He scored 23 points for the Suns in their Dec. 19 loss at Dallas; he gets credit for 52 seconds (and a rebound) playing for the Heat.

"I'm a little confused with all the rules," Riley quipped. "I believe the NBA just made 'em all up."

## Rockets 106, Hornets 96

In Houston, victory over New Orleans saw Houston stretch its winning streak to 18 games.

Tracy McGrady scored 41 points for the Rockets, who have won their past nine games by double digits and moved into a tie with the Hornets for fourth in the Western Conference.

Houston also made a season-high 14 3-pointers.

## Bobcats 100, Wizards 97

In Washington, Charlotte downed Washington to stretch its winning streak to a franchise-record five games.

Jason Richardson scored 34 points for the Bobcats, who are now only 2-1/2 games off the Eastern Conference playoff berths.

The Wizards blew their chance to get back to .500 for the first time in more than a month.

## Warriors 104, Magic 95

In Orlando, Florida, Baron Davis scored 33 points as Golden State overcame a slow start to beat Orlando.

Stephen Jackson had 20 points for the Warriors shot only 35 percent in the first half, but had a 33-16 run in the third period to seize control of the game.

## Celtics 119, Grizzlies 89

In Memphis, Tennessee, Boston notched its eighth straight win by downing Memphis.

Ray Allen scored 23 points and Paul Pierce added 19 for the Celtics, who shot 58 percent from the field.

Memphis never got the margin under double digits after the 5-minute mark of the first quarter, dropping to 2-16 in its past 18 games.

## Trail Blazers 120, Knicks 114, OT

In New York, Brandon Roy scored 8 of his 27 points in overtime as Portland overcame New York.

Nate Robinson scored a career-high 45 points for the Knicks, who were without their top four scorers and lost their sixth straight.

## Mavericks 111, Nets 91

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 34 points and became the leading scorer in franchise history, helping Dallas beat New Jersey.

It was the first meeting between the teams since making an eight-player deal featuring Jason Kidd.

The Mavericks ended a three-game losing streak and moved 2-1/2 clear of ninth in the Western Conference playoff race.

## Jazz 132, Nuggets 105

In Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur made a career-high six 3-pointers, scoring 27 and adding 11 rebounds as Utah downed Denver.

The win extended Utah's lead over Denver in the Northwest Division to four games.

## Timberwolves 99, Clippers 96

In Los Angeles, Minnesota overcame a 13-point third-quarter deficit to beat Los Angeles.

Al Jefferson had 30 points and 12 rebounds and Randy Foye tied a career-high with 26 points—six in the final 1:15—for the Timberwolves.

## Tar Heels hold off Duke to win ACC crown



DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—Danny Green had 18 points and top-ranked

North Carolina scored the final 10 points of its 76-68 victory over No. 6 Duke on Saturday night to give the Tar Heels the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title.

Tyler Hansbrough finished with 16 points and 15 rebounds in his third straight victory at Cameron Indoor Stadium, and Wayne Ellington also scored 16 for the Tar Heels (29-2, 14-2).

North Carolina blew an early double-figure lead and briefly trailed before closing strong, holding the Blue Devils scoreless for the final 5 1/2 minutes to claim its eighth straight victory and the top seed in the ACC tournament in Charlotte—and maybe the inside track for the No. 1 seed in the Charlotte-based East Regional.

Greg Paulus scored 12 of his 15 points in the first half for the Blue Devils (26-4, 13-3), who rallied from a 14-point first-half hole but missed its final 10 shots to fall to 15-1 at Cameron this season.

Jon Scheyer added 14 points, and his stickback with 5:44 remaining gave Duke its only lead of the second half at 68-66—but that was the Blue Devils' last field goal of the game.

Ellington drove the left side for a layup to tie it at 68 with 3 minutes left and start North Carolina's game-closing 10-0 run, and on the next possession Hansbrough stuck back Green's miss to put the Tar Heels ahead to stay.

Ty Lawson, who missed the previous meeting with a sprained left ankle, finished with 10 points for the Tar Heels, who won their first winner-take-all regular-season finale against Duke since 1985.

It was sweet revenge for Ellington and Green, who were roundly blamed for the Tar Heels' 89-78 loss last month in Chapel Hill after they were a combined 4-for-24 shooting. With the league's regular-season title on the line, they were significantly sharper this time, making a combined 14-of-28 attempts.

They were the key components of a first half burst by North Carolina that was perhaps one of the most dominating by an opponent at the famously rowdy arena. The Tar Heels raced out to an early 29-15 lead on the strength of Green's hot hand—he was 6-for-8 at the break.

Kyle Singler and Gerald Henderson each scored 10 for Duke, which got back in the game by opening the second half on a 17-9 run.



# Cink seizes control at PODS Championship

**PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)**—Stewart Cink played the last of his 28 holes Saturday in near darkness, eager to finish a long day in the toughest conditions the PGA Tour has seen this year.

Even after his lone bogey in the third round for a 2-under 69, he couldn't wait to get started Sunday.

Playing in 30 mph wind at the PODS Championship for the better part of 12 hours, Cink's fortunes turned quickly when he ran of three straight birdies and went from four shots down to a two-shot lead that likely puts him in the final group for the third time this year.

He was at 5-under 208, two shots ahead of former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy.

Brandt Snedeker, who had a four-shot lead until his momentum changed on a three-putt

from 12 feet, was at 3 under and had three holes to play. Billy Mayfair also was at 3 under playing the 16th hole when darkness suspended the third round.

Only nine players remained under par. The tournament is still up for grabs.

"I've got to keep pushing," Cink said. "My goal is to give no one a chance tomorrow."

That sounds like the M.O. from Tiger Woods, and Cink knows that all too well. He was in the last group at Torrey Pines with Woods, albeit eight shots behind. And Cink was in the final at the Accenture Match Play Championship, which Woods won by a record margin for the final match, 8 and 7.

"I've seen him do that," Cink said, "and it looks like it's a lot of fun."

Even better? Woods has the week off.

"When the cat's away ..." Cink said.

He rarely sets goals for himself, but decided this year to aim for getting into contention more often. This will be his second good chance at winning in five events, so he's off to a good start.

"That's a step in the right direction," said Cink, who hasn't won since Firestone in 2004.

Cink had no problem with fatigue. He played 32 holes on Saturday of the Match Play (winning twice), and played 29 holes in the final match against Woods. But neither of those days featured such a vicious wind on an Innisbrook course that requires so much thought.

He had to think twice about his wedge from pampas grass on the 10th, playing left of the flag because it presented the best opening. It came out perfectly to 30 feet, and he holed the putt for the first of three straight birdies.

The next leaderboard he saw was on the 14th hole, and he wasn't surprised.

"One gust can mean two shots. It's as simple as that," Cink said.

In Snedeker's case, three putts meant a total loss of momentum.

He was at 7 under, leading by four, and had a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-3 eighth. But he three-putted for bogey, hit into the trees on the right at No. 9 for another bogey, three-putted the 13th, and suddenly was two shots behind.

"I'm disappointed with two three-putts on the par 3s. They were both stupid, boneheaded mistakes, but those are going to happen," Snedeker said. "You've got to be patient. I'm still right there."

Sean O'Hair and Tom Pernice Jr. each shot 71 and were

at 2-under 211. The nine players under par included defending

champion Mark Calcavecchia, who was 1 under with two holes to play.

Cink had to play 28 holes Saturday, none of them easy.

The wind was raging at dawn and never let until the final minutes of daylight, so strong that players who were hitting a 9-iron into the 18th green in the opening round were pulling 3-iron or more on Saturday. The average score for the second round was 74.5. Once the cut was made—the first cut, anyway—the field average for the third round was headed for about 74.

Seventy-nine players made the cut, activating the week-old amendment to the PGA Tour's cut policy. Because more than 78 players made the cut, a second cut to the top 70 and ties was

## Josh Beckett to be rechecked for back spasms



**F O R T  
M Y -  
E R S, Fla.  
( A P )**—

Josh Beckett's back pain began when he landed on a soft spot after his first warmup pitch. He threw five more, then walked off the field before the game even started.

Now the Red Sox must wonder for at least one more day when their ace can pitch again.

"We'll just have to wait and see how it feels tomorrow" was Beckett's only comment three hours after he felt back spasms and called catcher Jason Varitek to the mound following his sixth warmup pitch.

A split-squad of Florida Marlins, with starter Gaby Hernandez pitching three shutout innings, beat Boston 5-2 Saturday, but the loss might have been worse if Beckett had pitched with the pain and aggravated the injury in a meaningless spring-training game.

"I think everybody holds their collective breath hoping that the severity of this is manageable," pitching coach John Farrell

to be made after third round.

That knocked out eight players, who will receive official, last-place money. And some might be glad to be leaving. Kevin Streelman made only seven pars in his round of 84.

The highest 54-hole lead until this week was 9-under 204, a mark that will be shattered.

Ogilvy was asked to go over his birdies, bogeys and any good par saves he made. That brought a wry smile to the Australian.

up the leaderboard, and when he finally missed the ninth green to the left, he chipped in for birdie and a 68 to take the lead.

Then, he was even better in the afternoon.

As just about everyone else

Three putts later, everything changed.

"Two bad bogeys in a row, and I started to lose momentum," he said.

Ogilvy took a while to shake off rust from staying home after



Stewart Cink tees off on the fourteenth hole during the third round of the PODS Championship golf tournament Saturday, March 8, 2008, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla. AP

Jason Gore and Charles Warren each shot 81.

"It played hard—I played hard," Kevin Sutherland said after a hard-earned 70 left him in a tie for seventh, only four shots behind.

The cut was at 3-over 145, the highest ever at Innisbrook.

"Every hole you make par is a great save," he said.

Wind this strong exposes the slightest mistake, and it was hard to find anything wrong with Snedeker. When he returned Saturday morning to complete the second round, he hit six straight greens to move

was dropping shots around him, Snedeker birdied the par-5 fifth from 6 feet, then holed a 12-foot birdie putt on the seventh to build a four-shot lead. The margin looked as though it might get even larger on the next hole, the par-3 eighth, when he hit his tee shot into 12 feet.

the Jan. 7 birth of his son, but he is finding his groove. He birdie putts inside 10 feet on four straight holes, making two of them, and wound up with a great chance Sunday.

"You know the rust is coming off when it's tough and you play," he said.

said. "Obviously, missing a start today is short term. But, again, it's too early to speculate when he'd be on the mound next."

Before the injury, Beckett likely would have made two more starts in Florida before opening the regular season against Oakland on March 25 in Tokyo. He still might do that.

The Red Sox already are without Curt Schilling, who is expected to miss at least half the season while he rehabilitates his injured right shoulder.

Beckett, the only 20-game winner in the majors last year, was examined Saturday and "will be examined thoroughly" again Sunday, said manager Terry Francona, who didn't want to risk letting him pitch.

"If a kid like Beckett ever threw a pitch and hurt his arm because he was favoring his back, we wouldn't be able to live with ourselves," he said. "We wouldn't do that with anybody."

Beckett's lower back had been sore during the past week, something that's not

unusual for players in spring training, Francona said, and he seemed fine when he warmed up in the bullpen before taking the mound for the game.

That mound already had been used Saturday morning for a four-inning camp game involving Red Sox players that was held to give four pitchers some work. All four were optioned to the minors or sent to the team's minor league camp after that game.

It ended about two hours before Beckett took the mound, and Farrell wondered if there was enough time for groundskeepers to prepare it properly.

"Unfortunately, his landing area kind of gave way and that's what caused him to slip," Farrell said. "He felt his left foot slide as he was releasing the (first) pitch and, as a result, (his) low back absorbed the stress."

Second baseman Dustin Pedroia noticed something was wrong right away as Beckett, last year's AL Cy Young Award runner-up, was preparing to face Hanley Ramirez. The shortstop was part of a seven-player trade

that brought Beckett to the Red Sox in November 2005.

"He was just moving around like he was stiff or something," Pedroia said. "What he did for us last year and what he's capable of doing, obviously you don't want anybody to get hurt in these games, especially when it's our ace. So, hopefully, it's nothing big."

Manny Delcarmen replaced Beckett and pitched two perfect innings. The game was scoreless through four as Boston managed just two hits off Hernandez, a long shot to make Florida's rotation.

"Just going out there pitching well is raising my confidence," Hernandez said. "I'm just trying to get outs and get as many clean innings as I can. If they send me down, they send me down."

Florida scored twice in the fifth off Craig Hansen. The Marlins added three runs in the ninth on a solo homer by Jorge Piedra and a two-run shot by Gaby Sanchez.

Jacoby Ellsbury hit a two-run homer for Boston in the ninth.

Beckett had been healthy for almost all of his two seasons with the Red Sox. He made 33 starts in 2006 when he went 16-11 with a 5.01 ERA.

He started 30 games last year, going 20-7 with a 3.27 ERA. He went on the disabled list and missed two starts in May after tearing skin on his right middle finger. He won his first seven starts and was 9-0 before losing to Colorado on June 14.

In the opener of the Red Sox sweep of the Rockies in the World Series, Beckett allowed one run and six hits in seven innings of Boston's 13-1 victory.

Beckett was scheduled to make his first spring-training start against a regular major league lineup Saturday. His first two games were against Boston College and a Minnesota Twins "B" squad.

In the 24-0 win over BC, Beckett struck out four in two perfect innings. Four days later, he allowed one unearned run, two hits and a walk and struck out five in three innings against the Twins.



# Coke—TNT tiff in Panabo ushers in 2008 Fiesta Cup

**MANILA, Philippines**—The Philippine Basketball Association is taking its act down south with an exciting matchup pitting the Coca-Cola Tigers and the Talk N Text Phone Pals on March 29 at the Panabo Multi-Purpose Tourism, Cultural and Sport Center in Davao del Norte.

Organized by the city’s local government unit led by Mayor Jose Silvosa Sr., the lone game scheduled at 4:30 p.m. highlights the celebration of the 7th Araw ng Panabo City.

The Panabo stop is an official provincial game of the import-laced 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta

Cup, which will commence formally on March 30 at the Araneta Coliseum with a double-header featuring Welcoat against Air 21 at 4:30 p.m. and Red Bull facing Barangay Ginebra at 6:50 p.m.

Three days later, the rest of

the teams strut their wares at the Big Dome. At 4:50 p.m. newly-crowned Philippine Cup champion Sta. Lucia takes on Alaska. In the 7:20 p.m. nightcap, the Purefoods TJ Giants go up against the Magnolia Beverage Masters.



## 12 EARN

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course in 4:01:56.

Joining Torgeson, Noble, and Bucher in Maui this year are age group winners Hayato Katayama (15-19); Ryoichi Higashino (25-29), Masato Samata (30-34), Yasuhioro Hiriyama (40-44), Sato Shiro (45-49), Manny Sitchon (50-54), Florian Braig (55-59), and Hans Dieben (65-59) in the men’s division. The women’s division qualifiers are Stephanie Alcivar (25-29), Tomoyo Shibata (30-34), and Heather Kennedy of Saipan (40-44).

Japan’s Katayama led the charge for Japan, which won half

of the 12 division titles at stake. Katayama topped the 15-19 age group with a time of 3:54:22, while countryman Satoki Kori came in second (4:45:12) with Ethan Berg rounding up the Top 3 in 5:02:49.

Higashino won his two-cornered fight against Felix San Nicolas in the 25-29 division when he crossed the finish line in 4:15:54, while his compatriot from Guam came in after 5:18:06.

Samata bested a crowded field in the 30-34 age group with a time of 3:35:40 with Thomas Alcivar finishing in second place in 4:03:19. Saipan’s Butch Sublemente, who again encountered problems with his derailleur, came in third (4:05:06).

Hirayama was the fastest among 40-44 participants when he clocked in 4:10:31 to beat Dai Matsui (4:14:08) and Tintian’s Ken Halliday (4:20:38).

Sato completed the Japanese attack in the men’s division when he won the 45-49 division in 4:21:45 to beat second placer Makoto Katayama (5:12:26) and Mark Walter (6:01:52).

Sitchon won the 50-54 title after completing the course in 5:07:25, while Braig topped the 55-59 division as the CHC physician and longtime triathlon enthusiast completed the race in 4:08:03.

Keizou Ikeda came in second to Braig with a time of 5:26:51, while Hans Dieben completed the male winners when he

topped the 65-69 division in 6:41:15.

Stephanie Alcivar was the top amateur female racer when she logged in a time of 5:02:25 to win the 25-29 division, while Japan’s Endo Mai came in second, 5:28:17.

Tomoyo Shibata completed Japan’s win when she topped the 30-34 division in 5:09:19, while compatriots Asunta Samata (6:14:56) and Yuko Nagamine (6:43:01) completed the sweep for Team Nippon.

Heather Kennedy will also be going to Maui as the top 40-44 finisher in the XTERRA Saipan, returning to AMP after 5:13:17 while Yoshimi Yasue came in second place with a combined time of 5:55:45.

## COMMUNITY

From Page

from the planning stages and actual racing event.

He said Friday’s showers made the course more challenging. “Even though it rained on Friday before the event, it did not dampen the spirit of the participants and it made the course just that more exciting and difficult.”

He added there was no major incident that happened except for some bikers and runners missing the signs on the course

or got lost in the trail run. “Some participants had minor road rash or got heat stroke. Only Kimiko Hasegawa suffered serious injuries and we had to let her not complete the race.”

Hasegawa crashed while negotiating the course in Chalan Galaide and suffered bruises on her arms, legs, and face but still managed to finish the bike leg. She was heading into the trail run when organizers convinced her to not finish the race and was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center.

“We had to stop her [Hase-

gawa] she was bleeding so we had to rush her to the hospital,” said Mojica.

He said without the support of the MVA and all the sponsors, XTERRA Saipan would not have been a reality. “We operated on a shoestring budget and MVA’s support and all the sponsors allowed us to continue with XTERRA.”

Mojica said they could have done more in marketing the event if not for the limited time. “We just informed Team Unlimited last September but ours is a truly great community and we

pulled it through.”

He said that they would buckle down to work after the 17th Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday, March 15, to do an assessment of the two events and plan for next year.

“Nothing is perfect and so at this time I would ask for comments. Once we are done with Tagaman, we will be having a post-race wrap up meeting to see if there is anything we can do better next year.”

Mojica added they would inform Team Unlimited of their plans for 2009 by mid or last week of July.

## HARD

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He thanked his family, who was proud and happy with his award. “They [family] are very supportive of everything I do and proud of my accomplishments.”

Omar immediately became the CNMI’s sprint king, breaking the CNMI 100m run record not only once but three times when he competed in three off-island tournaments last year.

He competed in the Oceania Grand Prix Series, 11th IAAF World Championships, and the XIII Pacific Games in 2007. He also broke the 200m run record,

which he also previously holds.

Omar first broke the 100m record he set in the World Youth Championships in Beijing, China in August 2006. He competed in the Grand Prix at Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia where he registered a new record of 11.12 seconds to shatter his year-old mark.

Not content with his time, Omar broke his own record of 11.12 seconds a week later when he registered 11.09 seconds in the 11th IAAF World Championships held at Nagai Stadium in Osaka City, Osaka, Japan.

Omar ran alongside world champion and Olympic gold-medal winning sprinter Tyson

Gay in the first of the qualifying heats of the World Championships in Osaka.

Not satisfied with his new record, Omar shaved off .09/10th of a second in his time when he ran at 11 seconds flat during the qualifying heats in the XIII Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

He moved on into the semifinals, which was a historic feat since he became the first CNMI athlete to qualify to the next round. During the semis, Omar failed to enter the finals but made history once again when he broke the 11-second barrier when he recorded a 10.99 finish.

Omar finished ninth overall and was .01/10th of a second

behind Papua New Guinea’s Henry Ben, 10.98, who was the last finals qualifier.

Omar also nearly qualified in the men’s 200m run finals in the Pacific Games but settled for breaking another CNMI record when he registered a new time of 22.40 seconds to shatter the 23.03 seconds he set in the Grand Prix Series.

Omar ran on lane 6 in the third heat where he finished ninth overall. He was .08/10th of a second behind last qualifier Moses Kamut of Vanuatu.

He was way ahead of the Federated States of Micronesia’s Jack Howard, who came in 13th overall with a time of 22.75 seconds.

## USOC

From Page

also expressed its support for CNMI’s ONOC application. “USOC’s approval was the last major hurdle we had to face.”

Scherr, in a letter to ONOC secretary general Dr. Robin Mitchell, said USOC believes that the CNMI will be a welcome addition to ONOC. “[The CNMI] will make a positive contribution to ONOC and to

the development of sport in the Oceania region.”

White said the ONOC General Assembly will have a meeting in Fiji this week and he will attend the gathering as CNMI’s official observer. “I hope that ONOC will consider and approve our request at that time.”

He said is has been NMASA’s dream to be a full member of the Olympic movement in order for CNMI athletes to have the chance to join the quadrennial Olympic Games. Regretfully, that did not

and cannot come to pass.”

However, White said, becoming an ONOC associate membership is a major achievement. [Being an ONOC associate member] would put us on a par with other non-independent territories in the Pacific region who are not full Olympic members.”

Once CNMI’s ONOC application is approved, it will mark the first time that the Commonwealth will at least have a seat at the Olympic table and access to ONOC’s resources will be

available. “[It would] enable us to grow and develop sports in the CNMI.”

White thanked USOC for its endorsement. “On behalf of NMASA and the entire sporting community of the [CNMI], I wish to express our thanks to USOC for its support.”

“I look forward to ONOC General Assembly meeting, and hope that our application for associate membership will be officially approved then,” he ended.

With a good three weeks remaining before the second conference gets going, most of the teams are still busy shopping around for prospective imports.

To date, only Talk N Text and Air21 have signed imports. Aaron DeShon McGhee, a 6-foot-8, 250-pound power forward who

starred for the Oklahoma University Sooner that reached the 2002 US NCAA Final Four will reinforce the Phone Pals. The Express, for their part, will lean on CBA leading rebounder Steve Thomas to bring them to the top. Thomas has been averaging 13.8 points and 11.1 rebounds for game for the East Kentucky Miners in the CBA before he got the call from Air21. **(PDI)**

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES			
NBA STANDINGS			
EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
x-Boston	49	12	.803 —
Toronto	33	28	.541 16
Philadelphia	29	33	.468 20 1/2
New Jersey	26	37	.413 24
New York	18	45	.286 32
Southeast Division			
Orlando	40	24	.625 —
Washington	30	32	.484 9
Atlanta	26	36	.419 13
Charlotte	24	39	.381 15 1/2
Miami	11	50	.180 27 1/2
Central Division			
Detroit	45	17	.726 —
Cleveland	36	27	.571 9 1/2
Chicago	25	37	.403 20
Indiana	24	39	.381 21 1/2
Milwaukee	23	39	.371 22
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Southwest Division			
San Antonio	43	18	.705 —
Houston	42	20	.677 1 1/2
New Orleans	42	20	.677 1 1/2
Dallas	40	23	.635 4
Memphis	15	47	.242 28 1/2
Northwest Division			
Utah	42	22	.656 —
Denver	37	25	.597 4
Portland	33	30	.524 8 1/2
Seattle	16	46	.258 25
Minnesota	14	48	.226 27
Pacific Division			
L.A. Lakers	44	18	.710 —
Phoenix	40	22	.645 4
Golden State	39	23	.629 5
Sacramento	27	35	.435 17
L.A. Clippers	20	41	.328 23 1/2
x-clinched playoff spot			
Yesterday's Games			
Cleveland 103, Indiana 95			
Atlanta 114, Miami 111, OT, comp. of susp. game			
Atlanta 97, Miami 94			
Golden State 104, Orlando 95			
Charlotte 100, Washington 97			
Portland 120, New York 114, OT			
Boston 119, Memphis 89			
Houston 106, New Orleans 96			
Dallas 111, New Jersey 91			
Utah 132, Denver 105			
Minnesota 99, L.A. Clippers 96			
Did Not Finish			
Brandt Snedeker	69-68	137	
Billy Mayfair	68-71	139	
Mark Calcavecchia	69-70	139	
Lee Janzen	65-74	139	
Stuart Appleby	66-73	139	
Jeff Maggert	66-72	138	
PODS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES			
PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP)—Scores Saturday from the PODS Championship, a \$5.3 million ((3.5 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,340-yard, par-71 Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club's Copperhead course:			
Partial Third Round			
Stewart Cink	66-73-69	208	
Geoff Ogilvy	69-72-69	210	
Tom Pernice, Jr.	67-73-71	211	
Sean O'Hair	69-71-71	211	
Kevin Sutherland	74-68-70	212	
Bart Bryant	65-74-73	212	
Jonathan Byrd	67-76-70	213	
George McNeill	70-72-71	213	
Troy Matteson	70-72-71	213	
Rich Beem	69-74-71	214	
Ryuji Imada	72-70-72	214	
Ryan Armour	69-73-72	214	
Steve Elkington	73-68-73	214	
Leaderboard			
	SCORE	THRU	
1. Stewart Cink	-5	F	
2. Geoff Ogilvy	-3	F	
2. Brandt Snedeker	-3	15	
2. Billy Mayfair	-3	15	
5. Tom Pernice, Jr.	-2	F	
5. Sean O'Hair	-2	F	
7. Kevin Sutherland	-1	F	
7. Bart Bryant	-1	F	
7. Mark Calcavecchia	-1	16	
10. Jonathan Byrd	E	F	
10. George McNeill	E	F	
10. Troy Matteson	E	F	
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS			



# 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship

Photos and text  
By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Rezne Wong enters the bike transition area to tap biker Rene Calage in the relay event of the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship on Saturday at Micro Beach inside the American Memorial Park. Wong did the swim, Calage the bike leg, while Ronald Villafria took on the 12K trail run.



Cooper Graf hops on his bike after completing the swim leg. Graf teamed up with Marianas Coffee Trail Run winner Fujio Miyachi.



Japanese pro Taro Shirato watches his step along a slippery portion of the trail run.



Mitsoyoshi Fujishita of Japan goes down a small opening in the trail run.



Japan's Masato Samata steers his bike on the course en route to winning the 30-34 age division.



American Jim Vance slows down as he nears the entrance to the trail run.



Jerry Diaz leans forward as he negotiates his way inside the trail run.



Switzerland's Renata Bucher goes inside the jungle.



Thomas Alcivar goes under some tree branches.



Kazuhiko Kubo of Japan uses a rope to climb a steep section of the trail run.





**Cink seizes control at PODS Championship**  
Stewart Cink played the last of his 28 holes Saturday in near darkness, eager to finish a long day in the toughest conditions the PGA Tour has seen this year.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Hawks sweep Heat in replay doubleheader

In less than three hours, the Atlanta Hawks added two much-needed wins to their record. The Hawks held off hapless Miami in the replay of a protested game.



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28 MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 12 earn slots for XTERRA World

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Twelve age group winners in the men's and women's division will be joining pros Andrew Noble of Australia and Renata Bucher of Switzerland in the 2008 XTERRA World Championship on Oct. 26 in Makena, Maui, Hawaii.

Leading the list of winners is Saipan's Eli Torgeson, who became the top amateur in Saturday's race after finishing fifth overall behind pros Noble, Jim Vance of the U.S.A., Japan's Takashiro Ogasawara, and Bucher.

Torgeson, who joined his first ever XTERRA triathlon event, even finished ahead of XTERRA Saipan regular and pro Taro Shirato of Japan. The Commonwealth Health Center anesthesiologist completed the first half of the Pacific Islands Club Double in three hours, 17 minutes, and 11 seconds.

It was actually a Saipan sweep in that division as Nate "The Snakeman" Hawley came in almost 40 minutes after Torgeson to place second with a time of 3:57:42, while Lewie Tenorio earned his second straight third place finish after completing the

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MARK RABAGO

Saipan's Eli Torgeson was the top amateur finisher of the 7th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship last Saturday with a time of 3:17:11.

## Community helped make XTERRA possible

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica believes the community helped made the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship possible this year as various sectors of the Commonwealth banded together to pull it through.

Mojica, during an interview at the XTERRA Saipan awards banquet last Saturday at the beachside of the Pacific Islands

Club, thanked all the people involved in this year's staging.

"Thank you for helping us to have a successful event. Overall it's a success and most of the participants are pleased with the way things were organized," said Mojica.

Mojica made special mention to the Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Public Safety, all volunteers, and people in charge of logistics

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## Hard training has paid off for Omar

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



yearlong hard training paid

off when he won his second straight Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association Male Athlete of the Year award.

Omar, who was surprised after hearing his name in last week's annual sports banquet at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, said his 2007 award is more special compared to the first one he won in 2006.

"This year it came as a surprise, unlike last year [when] I kind of knew that I was going to get it. Because I trained a lot harder and I accomplished my goals."

Omar said despite being twice named as the NMSA Athlete of the Month, he did not expect to win the Athlete of the Year award since the other nominees had pretty good years too.

"It felt great hearing my name called as Athlete of the

Year. Now I'm one of the athletes that can say I won back-to-back awards," said Omar.

His main focus now is the upcoming Oceania Area Championships and Grand Prix Series, which Saipan will be hosting in June. "They [community] can expect national records to fall again."



JON PEREZ

Tyrone Omar won his second straight Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association Male Athlete of the Year title last Tuesday during the annual NMASA Athlete of the Year banquet at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Omar is also aiming to make it to the finals of either the 100m or 200m runs in the Oceania Championships and be the first from the CNMI to move into the next round of the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

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## USOC supports CNMI's ONOC membership

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The CNMI scored a major victory in its bid to become an associate member of the Oceania National Olympic Committee after the United States Olympic Committee supported its bid.

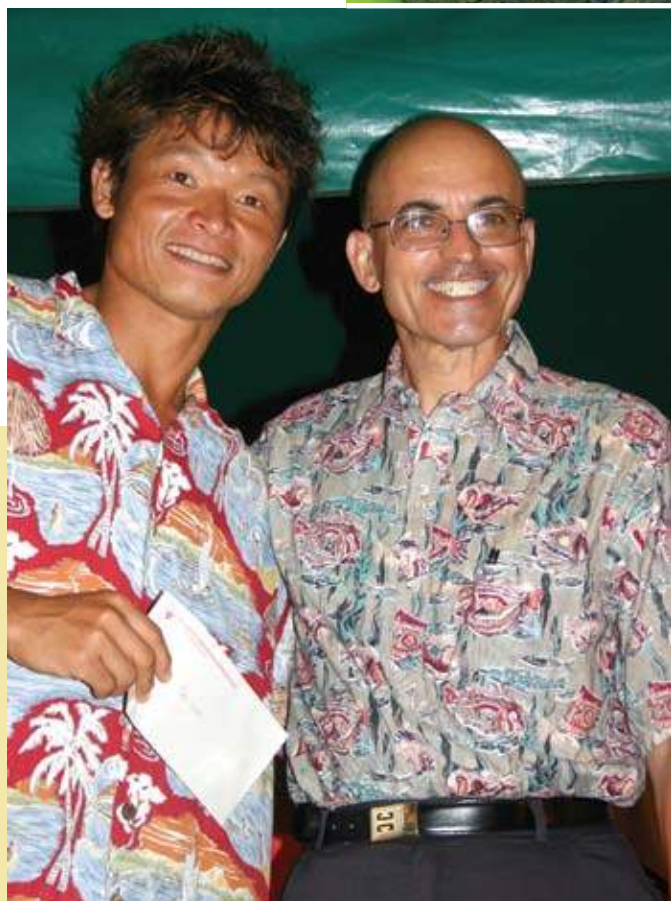
Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White said that he received a copy of the letter sent by USOC chief executive officer and secretary

general James E. Scherr last Friday expressing support for the CNMI's bid.

"I am delighted to advise you that [on Friday] I received a copy of the letter from [USOC], expressing its support for NMSA's application for associate membership in [ONOC]. [The] USOC has expressed its hope that ONOC will consider our application favorably," said White.

He added the International Olympic Committee has

See USOC on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Wolf Mojica, right, is joined by Japanese pro Taro Shirato in Saturday night's awards ceremony of the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship at the Pacific Islands Club.